

THE GATEWAY

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UofAVotes2010

The *Gateway* is your source for coverage of the 2010 U of A Students' Union Executive elections.

Follow us in print and online for the next two weeks as we bring you the top election stories.

today

- Candidate Q&As, Part 1: VP (Operations and Finance), VP (Academic), and VP (Student Life)

thursday, february 25

- Candidate Q&As, Part 2: President, VP (External), and Board of Governors Representative
- Residence Forum in review

tuesday, march 2

- Election Dissection: The *Gateway*'s annual panel of experts takes a look at this year's candidates and assembles their ideal SU Executive.
- Myer Horowitz, and SUBstage candidates' forum in review.

thursday, march 4

- The Poster Slam! A less-expert panel of *Gateway* staff rips down and tears up the best and worst of this year's campaign posters.

friday, march 5

- The *Gateway*'s annual election special turns four and brings you the final election results first. Look for this limited release in SUB, ETLC, CAB, and HUB before it's gone!

thegatewayonline

Find the latest elections information, including our exclusive live video webcast of the Myer Horowitz forum at *Gateway* election headquarters:

[thegatewayonline.ca/
uovotes2010](http://thegatewayonline.ca/uovotes2010)

For expert up-to-the-minute coverage and commentary, follow Filbert the Fern, the *Gateway*'s official political plant on Twitter at: [twitter.com/
democraseeds](http://twitter.com/democraseeds)



RUSH OF DEMOCRACY Monday begins a two-week storm of Students' Union election campaigning.

Female athlete injury risk higher

AARON YEO
News Staff

According to a recent study done by U of A physiologist Vicki Harber, female athletes are at a significantly higher risk of developing musculoskeletal injuries, more specifically shoulder and knee injuries, due to a variety of preventable factors.

"We're finding those kinds of injury rates," she said, "There's a two-to-six-fold difference between women and men when you go head to head. And that's substantial."

Harber, of the University's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation has been conducting in-depth research on the topic, primarily around existing literature.

"I've looked at some of that energy balance in female athletes," she explained. "[I'm] trying to understand the role of their dietary intake as it relates to the 'Female Athlete Triad'."

The Female Athlete Triad is a medical condition diagnosed by low physical energy levels, cessation of the menstrual cycle — known as amenorrhea — and diminished bone density. It's often found in participants of sports that promote low body weight, such as swimming, gymnastics, and track events.

Planning on further research in the future, Harber also aims to establish awareness programs. "We have so much information out there in the literature and I think it might be true to say that in a lot of these areas in science, we have so much information, but a lot of it doesn't get out

into the hands that need it."

She explained that young women often miss out on the valuable energy needed to exercise as a result of low-calorie diets.

"Girls and young women in North America have a tendency to get a lot of their messaging from the media and the popular press," she said. "They're being encouraged to adopt [the] body type of models and cover girls off magazines."

"These are injuries that occur simply when you're coming out of a fast run and you might be slowing down, or you might be pivoting, so a change in direction, or you're coming out of a jump, so the landing."

VICKI HARBER
PROFESSOR, FACULTY OF PHYS. ED. AND REC.

Bone mineral density is a concern as well, she explained.

"Calcium intake can be low in active females," Harber said. "Good sources of calcium have a tendency to be in dairy products, so if they're avoiding dairy products because they think they're high fat, they then might also have lower-than-acceptable calcium intakes."

PLEASE SEE MUSCLE • PAGE 2

Car rental program jump starts

SIMON YACKULIC
News Staff

With a Connect by Hertz car fleet already strategically placed around campus, the University of Alberta has finished rolling out a new car-rental program that co-ordinators hope will provide a cheap, sustainable, and accessible transportation option for students and staff alike.

Under the cheapest starting plan, students pay an annual fee of \$50 (which is waived if students register before April 30) to be in the program, and pay \$9.50 an hour to drive the car, a rate which includes the cost of gas and insurance. There are currently six cars on campus in the program — four of which are gas-electric hybrids — parked in groups of two at Lister Centre, Education Car Park, and near HUB Mall.

Geoff Rode, acting director of parking services for the U of A, explained that the University sought out Connect by Hertz to implement this program as a way of complimenting other transportation systems accessible on campus. While Connect by Hertz is already present at many American Universities, the U of A will be the first Canadian university to partner with the company. Connect by Hertz will provide the cars and will sustain itself from the program's revenue, while the U of A will provide the parking space and marketing. Rode notes that his aim with the program is to provide a sustainable option for students without necessarily making them sacrifice convenience — or their chequebook.

"We see this as another option that could be attractive to faculty, staff, and students alike. I'll give you an example: resident students often bring cars to campus and park them here all winter. We see this as an opportunity for somebody who needs a car occasionally — to get some groceries or take a trip to Jasper — to leave their car at home and do it that way. It's cost effective. It's very environmentally sound," Rode said.

While one might question how encouraging students to drive vehicles as opposed to taking public transit is necessarily "environmentally sound," Rode noted that Connect by Hertz is best seen as a part of a larger green transportation grid and that by providing convenience, could in fact be construed as sustainable.

Rode explained that many faculty and staff who he met with often expressed a desire to use public transit, but were leery of relying on the system too much. Often they would explain that having off-campus meetings hindered their willingness to bus to campus, as they would rather use a personal vehicle to reach important appointments. Rode expressed a hope that with this new initiative, most of their concerns would be allayed and more staff and students would convert to public transit or carpooling as their primary method of reaching campus.

"A main goal under this is to reduce single vehicle traffic to campus, to provide a number of transportation alternatives to students and staff," Rode added.

"For students it's a tremendous cost-saving measure if you don't have to keep your car here and pay for parking. Cars are expensive."

Winnin' latent Gamers

Take a peek at the toll the Olympic games are enacting on Vancouver — and why it just might be worth it all.

OPINION, PAGE 9



Losin' Lately Gambler

That's Corb Lund's latest album. Find out why he's so thrilled about finally playing in Edmonton to promote it.

A&E, PAGE 11

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Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6665
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
Email gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca

editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Mike Kendrick
eic@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.5168**MANAGING EDITOR** Nick Frost
managing@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6654**SENIOR NEWS EDITOR** Sean Steels
news@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7308**DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR** Jonathan Taves
deputynews@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6664**OPINION EDITOR** David Johnston
opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6661**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR** Sarah Stead
entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.7052**SPORTS EDITOR** Evan "Khad" Daum
sports@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6652**PHOTO EDITOR** Pete Yee
photo@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6648**DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR** Kelsey Tanasiuk
production@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6663**ONLINE EDITOR** Lucas Wagner
online@gateway.ualberta.ca | 248.1509

business staff

BUSINESS MANAGER Ashleigh Brown
biz@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6669**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE** Patrick Czolek
sales@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6700**AD/GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Lisa Lunn
design@gateway.ualberta.ca | 492.6647**CIRCULATION PAL** Kristyn Springall
CIRCULATION PAL Brendan Fairbridge
circulation@gateway.ualberta.caTHE GATEWAY is published by the
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sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that
way." The Gateway's games of choice are **Noby Noby**
Boy and **Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars**.

contributors

Brendan Munro, Dan McKechnie, Simon Yackulic,
Alexandria Eldridge, Aaron Yeo, David Kaczan, Alix
Kemp, Robert Frigon, Jason Luk, Ross Vincent, Hyle
Chan, Jeff Martin, Dustin Blumhagen, Edmon Rotea,
Michael O'Neill, Madeline Smith, Gabby Riches, Emma
Brook, Von Gondziola, Carson Fong, Grant Crawford,
Wayne Simon, Cyril Balibit.

Horner speaks on new budget, position

ALEXANDRIA ELDREDGE
News Staff

Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner has had a demanding 2010, being appointed deputy premier in addition to his position as minister, and dealing with the fallout from the provincial budget released on February 9. According to Horner, "busy is relative these days."

"When the boss is away, I get to play. Basically, [my job] is to stand in for the premier when the premier's not available for whatever committee or function that might be on the schedule," he says. "[I'm] honoured to have the position."

Horner also says that the position will benefit his portfolio, and although he may now spend some time on other things, he says his department can handle it.

"There's some elevation of the role and certainly that's advantageous to a minister. The negative side is there will be times where I'll be dealing with the issues that are potentially not directly related to the department," he says. "But I think that my leadership on a day-to-day basis is maybe not as required as it once was and we've got some great people working in this department."

According to Horner, his appointment to the position could be a reflection of the premier's commitment to advanced education.

"I think the premier has made postsecondary really part of his vision for the future and that has been certainly evident in the budgets that we've had over the last three years," he states.

The investment in postsecondary

has been a hot topic recently with the release of the budget. One of the more controversial decisions for the Advanced Education and Technology portfolio was a cut of \$54 million from grants and scholarships.

"We have a limited amount of money and we want to help as many students as we can," Horner says. "So some of these grants we need to move off to the side. But the reality is, even by doing that, we are still ahead of the rest of the nation in terms of scholarships."

As far as the base operating grants for the institutions go, Horner says the University of Alberta is receiving almost the equivalent of their grant from last year, but it's being delivered in one sum, the Campus Alberta grant.

"We've been actually working on a new funding framework with Campus Alberta for the past couple of years which is much more student focused and enrolment focused."

However, the U of A is still dealing with a ballooning deficit due to reduced funding from the provincial government. This has led to the potential implementation of a new \$550 Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security Fee for students next year.

Horner says the fee isn't something that he can prevent, but he isn't pleased about it.

"I'm not really happy about it. Our department took some cuts, we're trying to maintain the grants we're providing to the institutions, and we're trying to maintain the CPI cap. I would view [the fees] negatively, but at this point in time, there's not a lot I could do to change that. But it will factor into my decision-thinking

Female bones need
differing nutrition

MUSCLE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She likes to make the analogy to a racing car to help describe the problem. "[Female athletes are] a bit like a Formula One car — a high-performance machine," she said. "So if you're looking after that high performance machine, you have to do the maintenance."

While the eating regimen of young women is where her research is concentrated, she also acknowledges inherent physical differences in their exercise habits. For example, when female athletes come out of a jump, the impact is poorly cushioned — often as a result of an imbalance in quadricep and hamstring strength.

"You don't even have to be a trained observer; you can still see it. If you ask a guy to jump and land, perhaps from a small surface, and you ask a girl, you can see the difference in how they land."

"These are injuries that occur simply when you're coming out of a fast run and you might be slowing down, or you might be pivoting, so a change in direction, or you're coming out of a jump, so the landing. Those are the common risk factor manoeuvres," she said, adding that the risk of torn ACLs is higher even in high calibre, properly-trained athletes.

Harber recommends proper education as a solution to the Triad.

"Teach them with some very simple kinds of drills and skills which are brought right into warm-ups and training sessions. Be mindful of your overall energy intake, and make sure you're getting good sources of calcium and iron. It's not hard to do."

As you may be aware, the Olympics are now well underway.
What has been the most exciting Olympic moment so far?

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Sean Steels and Pete YeeBreanne Parker
Arts IIStephen Tchir
Open StudiesJames Price
Education
After DegreeTaylor Bouchard
General Studies I

Probably the boarder cross women's gold medal, because I was in Vancouver when the winner's friends were beside us celebrating when she won.

I watched the hockey game last night against team U.S.A., and I was heartbroken. But I think they've got as good a chance as ever. They've still got as good a chance as any team.

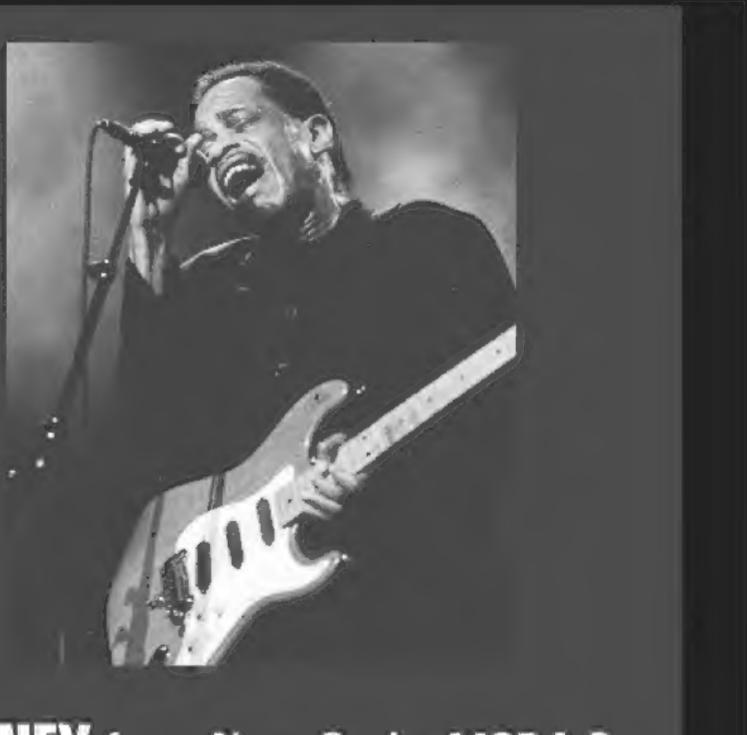
Probably watching skeleton. Everyone talks about hockey and the things Canada is good at, but it's an event you never hear anything about. And during the Olympics you like to hear a lot about the sports that don't go on in the four years in between them.

Probably ice dancing. I just love dancing, so it's the closest thing the Olympics gets to dancing.

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Fentiman alone retargets OpsFi

The Vice President (Operations and Finance) is responsible for the SU's \$10-million budget, including student services and businesses on campus.

Compiled by Jonathan Taves

1 What has your experience in the Operations and Finance portfolio taught you about the position?

Fentiman: First and foremost, the management skills that I've learned will help me in a second year. I'll already have worked with all of our staff. Managing and working with people is a skill that I've developed, and something that will be an asset to that position moving forward. Knowing the ins and outs of budgeting processes, variance reporting, cheque signing, requisitions, purchase ordering, all of those nitty gritty technical details, that knowledge would be able to continue forward. There wouldn't be downtime that would be necessary to pick up that knowledge.

2 What challenges do you foresee in the upcoming year, and how would you overcome them?

Fentiman: It's going to be a tighter budget [...] It really depends on how the economy is going to play out, whether students are going to be able to find summer employment and have disposable income, because that impacts the profitability of our businesses. I would target, specifically, the profitability of our businesses and improvement to the quality of our services as challenges. These are things I feel like I'm fairly well equipped to handle having worked through challenges, particularly capital improvement challenges for some of the businesses in order to improve their

competitiveness and efficacy. [Another challenge] is SUB visioning plans have come to a halt.

3 Looking back, is there anything you would change about the decisions you made this year?

Fentiman: It's not necessarily a mistake, but it's something that I would have utilized better, and that's that period of time in the summer months. You don't really realize how valuable those are because it's getting your feet wet, learning and trying to navigate the office and all the different nuances of your new job and your new role. If I'm re-elected, to be able to just hit the ground running and get things on the go.

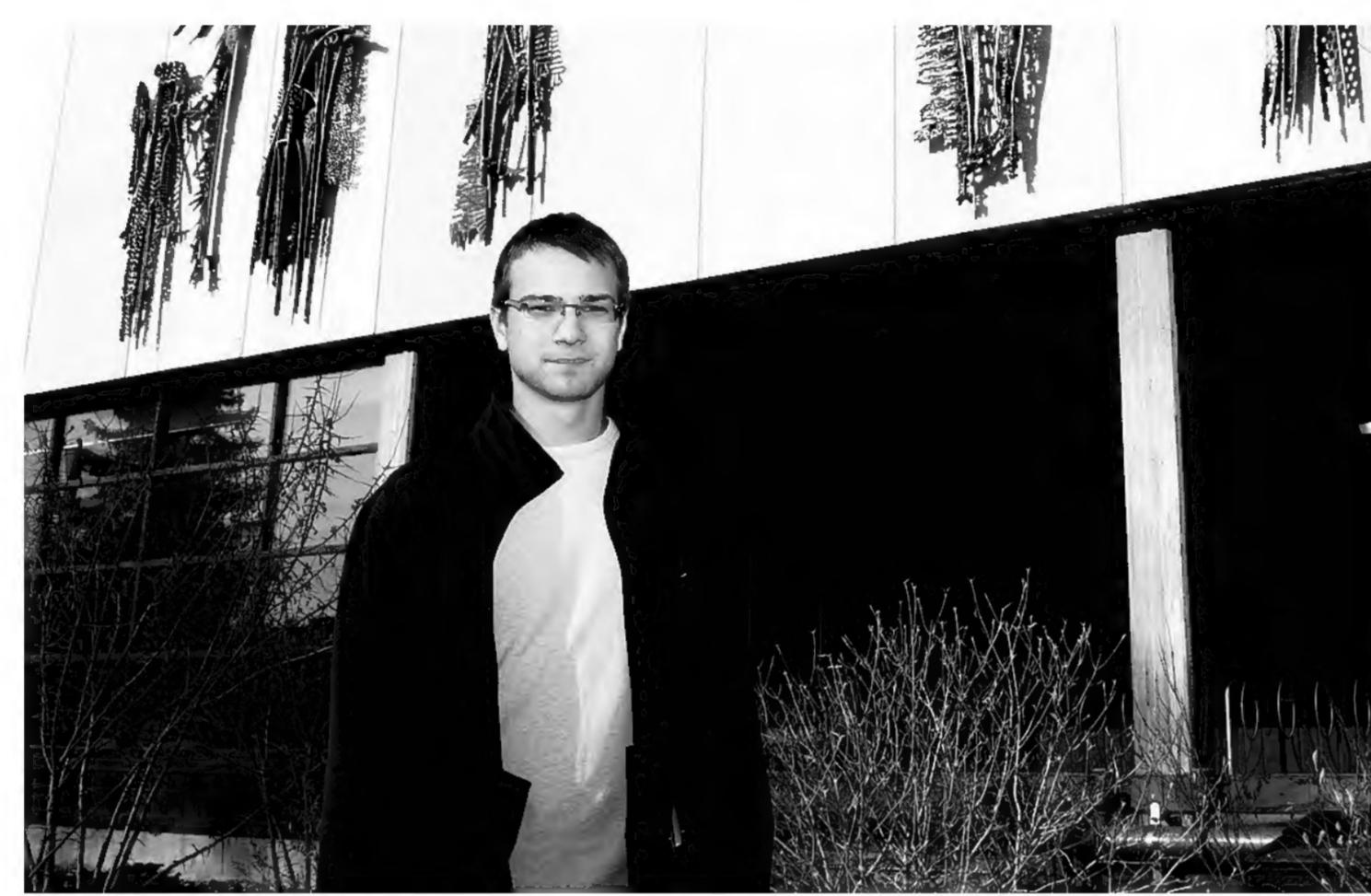
4 Last year, renovating the Room at the Top and keeping Dewey's open were two of your major projects. Do you have any specific goals for next year?

Fentiman: As far as services go, we're developing plans to implement a different service delivery method for

InfoLink, improving the scope of InfoLink in both a staffed and unstaffed way. So certain locations where it would be unfeasible to have a staffed location, we'd have an unstaffed location that would take the form of some kind of kiosk. That's one project. I'm particularly interested on a project that I worked on with the Vice President (Academic) this year, on academic materials and business models around digital delivery of academic materials. Maybe expanding the scope of SUBtitles, making it a kind of hybrid business service entity [...] Now with the advent of new technologies like Kindle and the iPad and all of these things, figuring out a way that we could maybe offer cheaper textbook solutions or cheaper academic materials on those types of technologies.

5 The Vice President (Operations and Finance) deals with a \$10-million budget. If you embezzled that money, how would you spend it?

Fentiman: I would go down to Antarctica and build a penguin ranch. I think that's what I'd do.



ONE MORE YEAR Fentiman hopes to be re-elected to his old post next year.

Scientists decipher dinosaur colouration

BRENDAN MUNRO
News Writer

Scientists have finally answered the question that has befuddled the mind of nearly every curious dinosaur enthusiast who's wondered, "What colour were they?"

While Hollywood has often provided its artistic interpretation for what the prehistoric creatures may have looked like in films like *Jurassic Park*, scientists now believe that they have sufficient evidence to definitively describe the colour patterns of certain dinosaurs.

The discoveries, recently published in the academic journal *Science*, and featured in *National Geographic*, were credited to a team led by Li Quanguo of the Beijing Museum of Natural History and Jakob Vinther of Yale University.

The scientists were able to extrapolate information about the density of melanosomes within fossilized dinosaurs with protofeathers and compare them to similar structures in modern birds to produce lifelike images of *Anchiornis huxleyi*. This diminutive dinosaur much more closely resembles modern birds than it does stereotypical dinosaurs, but the impact of these findings remain groundbreaking nonetheless.

Many researchers have been racing to reconstruct the accurate image of dinosaurs; a similar study was recently published in a January issue of *Nature*. That article featured artwork by Lida Xing, a master's student studying paleontology at the University of Alberta.



DINO DANCE Dinosaurs may have used their colours for protection or mating.

Xing contributed an image of *sinosauropelta*, a carnivorous turkey-sized dinosaur, that he had constructed based on the findings.

"Generally speaking, I would study the fossil carefully, and communicate with the paper author frequently to understand the major features of the dinosaur. For example, *sinosauropelta* with orange- and white-striped tails might be used for display. This is the clue I'd got," he said.

When asked what inspired both his artistic creativity and his scientific passion, Xing recalled a moment from his childhood.

"My mother read to me *Chinese Dinosaur*, a book written by Dr. Dong Zhiming. It was then that the idea of

becoming a paleontologist got firmly planted in my head," he recalled.

Many years later, Xing was able to join Zhiming on dinosaur excavations in Yunan and Henan provinces of China. He also worked at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, Chinese Academy of Sciences where he began work on artistic reproductions of dinosaurs, including a cover illustration for *Nature* in 2006.

Xing offered some insights that may be learned now that colour patterns are better understood.

"[*Sinosauropelta*] feathers on the tail are orange and white striped, which might either be used for display when mating or as protection color."

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Race for Student Life a two-way battle between McCarthy and Tighe

The Vice President (Student Life) is responsible for University issues that are not directly related to academics, including student programming and SU student services. They are in charge of organizing events like the Week of Welcome and Anti-Freeze.

Compiled by Dan McKechnie

1 Current Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod has had strong support for a number of his initiatives, like the Campus Cup dodgeball tournament. What plans do you have to keep students engaged in campus activities?

Kayla McCarthy: I think that utilizing Nick's invention of the street team is going to be the key. My plan is to use the street team as a strict promotions base so they can inform the campus about what's going on. So much of why people don't get involved is they just don't know what's going on.

Rory Tighe: My top priority would be the student engagement plan, which would be similar to the academic plan that [Vice President (Academic)] Leah Trueblood put forward this year, except for non-academic issues.

I think that would be the best way to give student groups and groups on campus to have a place where they can tell the Students' Union what they want. [Student groups can] write a plan like that and therefore be in a better place to ask for support from the University when we need it and to give direction for students engaging with campus.

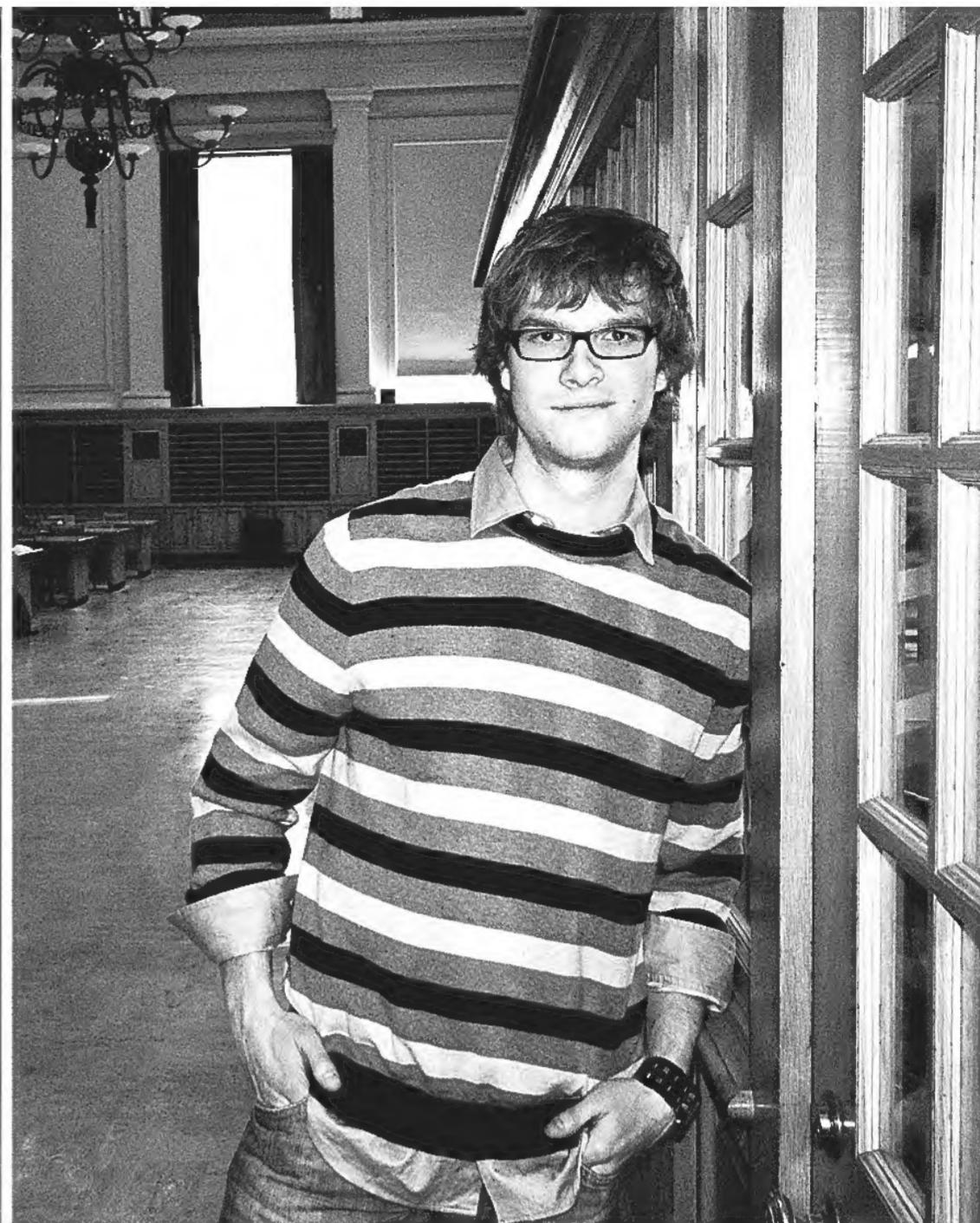
2 Do you have any specific goals for the coming year as VP (Student Life)?

McCarthy: In addition to the street team, I'd like to re-develop the programming the SU provides. It was said in January that Anti-Freeze is the biggest event on campus, but ask any student and they're likely to say beer gardens. So there's clearly a difference in what is offered and what students want. Every student pays money to the SU so they should get something out of it. Campus connection is a such a huge lack on this campus and this what I'd really focus on.

Tighe: I want to really look at a lot of events we run; I want to look at Week of Welcome, orientation, Anti-Freeze. I know the planning for those happens pretty early so I'm not sure how much of that I'll be able to do for the coming year, but I'm involved this year and I'm doing as much as I can over the interim period. During the year [we can] re-evaluate it and try to get as many students out as possible. I think the movie nights we have are really good. We can also ask the Gateway to help students and get them out to something fun then that's the best way to engage them, I think.

3 What involvement will you have with the Student Life Sustainability Advisory Committee? Do you feel it has been successful thus far?

McCarthy: I think the Student Life Sustainability Advisory Committee is a really key source within the SU. One of the SU's goals is to be greener and it's important to have students input



DAN MCKECHNIE

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM McCarthy (left) and Tighe hope students will support their vision for the campus community.

on how that can happen. I think with more focus, it can be successful.

Tighe: I was talking to the Director of ECOS and she was talking about an audit that they wanted to do of all the Students' Union activities. I think that's something that I can definitely offer some support for. I think it's a great idea because it sets the bar for what we expect out of the SU for sustainability and that will give us more room, I guess, to ask what the University is doing [for sustainability].

4 What do you think of the GSA's plan for a summer U-Pass? Will that likely see carry-over to

undergrad students?

McCarthy: I won't have any direct involvement with the GSA's plans, but I think it would be an interesting thing to pursue for the undergrads. It would have to be an opt-outable fee as only so many students are on campus during the summer.

Tighe: We'll have to wait until this referendum has passed to see what we're doing with the U-Pass. My understanding is that the University has increased subsidies for spring and summer U-Pass to the same level as they do for the fall and winter terms, so if that's the case and this referendum happens then I

definitely think this is something that's worth looking into. Again, it would have to come from another referendum, but I definitely think that it's something we can benefit from and something worth looking into.

5 What's the most badass dodgeball team name you can think of?

McCarthy: Well, just having watched dodgeball, I'd really like to be one of the Original Joes, but I think any of those teams would be pretty sweet to be on.

Tighe: Dodgeball Z won Campus Cup, so right now on campus I think Dodgeball Z is the name to beat.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2010 TO BE OR NOT TO BE? IT'S UP TO YOU!

2010 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The following referendum questions will appear on the ballot of this year's March 3 and 4 Students' Union Election.

MILLENNIUM VILLAGES

Do you support the establishment of a Millennium Villages Dedicated Fee, subject to the following conditions:

1. The fee shall be assessed to both full and part time students at a rate of \$7.50 per term*, not to be levied more than twice per academic year*, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The fee shall be initiated in the Summer 2010 term*,
 - b. The fee shall increase annually at a rate equal to the Alberta Consumer Price Index,
 - c. The fee shall expire on June 30, 2020, or at such a time that a successful referendum is conducted to rescind the fee, and
 - d. Students may opt out of this fee online and unconditionally.
2. A Millennium Villages committee be formed to:
 - a. Manage and transfer collected funds to Millennium Promise†,
 - b. Maintain regular communication with Millennium Promise†,
 - c. Report on, market, and publicize the transfer of funds in a transparent and accountable way, and
 - d. Advertise the opt-out deadline.
3. The Millennium Villages committee shall appoint one member to the Students' Union Social Responsibility Committee, and include at least one Students' Council member appointed by Students' Council in its membership.

* As defined by the 2009/2010 University of Alberta academic calendar.
† Millennium Promise is an external organization which administers the Millennium Villages Project.

UNIVERSAL BUS PASS (U-PASS)

Do you support the continuation of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions:

1. The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular transit service through Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and/or Winter Terms to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit within the participating municipalities service area.
2. The cost of the U-Pass to each student would be mandatory, and would be
 - a. \$91.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2010/2011 academic year,
 - b. \$104.17 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2011/2012 academic year, and
 - c. \$116.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2012/2013 academic year
3. The following students may opt-out of the U-Pass:
 - a. Students enrolled in work-experience, co-op, or a practicum outside of the participating municipalities service area for a majority of a term;
 - b. Students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability; and
 - c. Students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
4. Students enrolled at Augustana are exempt from the U-Pass.
5. The Students' Union shall be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with participating municipalities and the University of Alberta, contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions.
6. The U-Pass would expire upon the passing of a referendum to that effect, or the Students' Union deciding that it can no longer adhere to any of (1) through (5).

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WELLNESS CENTRE (PAW)

Do you support the establishment of a non-instructional fee subject to the following conditions:

1. The fee would be dedicated to the construction of a new Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre on North Campus as well as concurrent upgrades to the Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.
2. The fee would be assessed in each term to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The fee shall be no greater than \$29.00 per term in Fall and Winter Terms;
 - b. The fee shall be no greater than \$14.50 per term in Spring and Summer Terms;
 - c. The fee shall be optional for:
 - i. students that are registered only in courses designated as off-campus;
 - ii. students that are registered only in courses at Augustana campus;
 - d. The fee shall provide unrestricted use of the PAW Centre during its hours of operation to each undergraduate student currently paying the fee;
 - e. The fee shall not be assessed until the construction of the facility is complete and the student component is operational;
 - f. The fee shall be assessed for a period no longer than 35 years, or until the costs incurred in (1) have been recovered, whichever is first; and
 - g. Undergraduate students would be unable to alter or rescind the fee.
3. There shall be a committee established for the PAW Centre that shall:
 - a. have an overall student majority;
 - b. provide strategic direction for the student component of the building program; and
 - c. establish budget principles annually.
4. A building agreement is established between the Governors of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union that is subject to approval by Students' Council.

PAW YES - Steven Dollansky, Campaign Manager
PAW NO - Unrepresented

MILLENNIUM VILLAGES YES - Jon Osborne, Campaign Manager
MILLENNIUM VILLAGES NO - Unrepresented

U-PASS YES - Beverly Eastham, Campaign Manager
U-PASS NO - Unrepresented

Academic standoff pits SU staffer Eastham against councillor L'Abbé



JONATHAN TAVES

HITTING THE BOOKS Science Councillor L'Abbé (left) and SU researcher Eastham are vying for the Academic portfolio.

The Vice President (Academic) represents the academic interests of students, such as textbooks, class formats, and teaching in work with University government bodies and faculty associations.

Compiled by Jonathan Taves

1 Why do you think you're suited for the Academic portfolio?

Thomas L'Abbé: I've got a good deal of experience on council and dealing with students in other things like student groups and faculty associations and things like that. Also, I think I'm a really good people-person, and I think that [as VPA], you need somebody who's going to be able to build relationships with people and keep

faculties have really solid programs, like business and engineering. Science and Arts students, especially in general programs, don't always have the same access to things like that. I really want to enable students to make the most out of all the things our university has to offer. I think a lot of students don't even know or have a means to access those types of things. I think that's the biggest push I want to make. I really want to help faculty associations become as empowered as they can to help represent students. One of the things people hear and say a lot is that the Students' Union is out of touch with students. They don't always know exactly what students want or need. I think there are a lot of ways to go about trying to fix that problem and get more in touch with students. I think faculty associations are such a natural way to go about [that].

to work with the University, and hold them accountable.

Eastham: Leah Trueblood is part of the committee that's writing the academic plan. So I think having a former Vice President (Academic) who we already have a good relationship with will help facilitate us in shaping the policy as well. If we reinvigorate our advocacy surrounding our [academic plan] submission, we can have an impact on the direction the plan takes.

4 What do you think will be the most challenging part about the job?

L'Abbé: I think it's quite different from what you might expect because you're going into committee meetings with people who have been doing their job for 35 years. They have a lot of experience with students and governance.

Even though I have experience with student groups and council, it still, I think, is going to be quite a learning curve, because I'm only 21 and there are people in there who are a lot older than me, and a lot wiser. I think it's about being able to acknowledge that and going in there and being like "I know I'm a student, but I have all these reasons I know I can do this job."

Eastham: I think that the portfolio is challenging simply because of the breadth of issues and how much knowledge you have to have. But I think I'm well on my way to tackling these issues because of the position I've held in the Students' Union and the research that I've done into them. Specifically for next year, I think teaching evaluation is going

"It's not always a big event or huge changes year after year, but it's about pushing and holding the University to the commitments it's made to students."

THOMAS L'ABBÉ
VPA CANDIDATE

relationships going that are already in place. It's a lot of networking and advocating for what students want. One of the best ways to go about doing that is building solid relationships with people. I think that I'd be able to deal with the University in a good positive manner as much as I possibly can. Through that, I can convince them of what is most important to students. I think I have a pretty good sense of what that is, and I have a good connection to students so I keep knowing what that is.

James Eastham: This year I've worked in the portfolio as the University policy and information officer with the Students' Union. I've been doing research on all the issues, so I've got a really good knowledge. As well, I've sat on council so that provides me with some support.

2 Do you have specific goals for the upcoming year?

L'Abbé: One thing I'd like to do is make sure undergraduate experience is as well-rounded as possible in a lot of different ways. I think that by pushing for things like more interdisciplinary studies, and enabling students to access things in different faculties, that will help open that up.

I also really want to push things like community-based learning to get students out of just their general lecture of the classroom, and into things like practicums and internships. I know that some

"One of my big platform points is advocating for more experiential learning opportunities."

JAMES EASTHAM
VPA CANDIDATE

3 How do you hope to improve on the SU's submission to the U of A's academic plan?

L'Abbé: I think it's a really great document [...] One of the things about the academic portfolio is that things don't always move as quickly as in the other portfolios. It's not always a big event or huge changes year after year, but it's about pushing and holding the University to the commitments it's made to students [...] A lot of what I want to talk about, like increased interdisciplinary studies, getting students out of the classrooms, and community engagement, incubating scholarship, are elements of the academic plan. So I think it's a good way

to be one of the hot-button issues, as well as grading.

5 What's one faculty that's not at any university that you'd like to see become a part of the U of A?

L'Abbé: I don't want to take anything away from the faculty of Phys. Ed. and Rec. because they're awesome, but to have a faculty of extreme sports. For me personally, I'm the biggest longboarder try-hard of all time. All I want to do is be a good longboarder, but I fail at it so miserably.

Eastham: It would be the faculty of auto racing, because I really enjoy watching Formula 1.



FACT:

During the prohibition era, the US government mandated the poisoning of industrial alcohols to deter people from purchasing bootlegged liquor. This caused an estimated 10,000 deaths.

FACT:

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gateway student journalism society

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The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires a student-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term ending 30 April, 2011.

Applicants must be U of A undergraduate students and may not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Friday, 19 March, 2010 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by email to biz@gateway.ualberta.ca, or through the campus mail to Ashleigh Brown, c/o Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

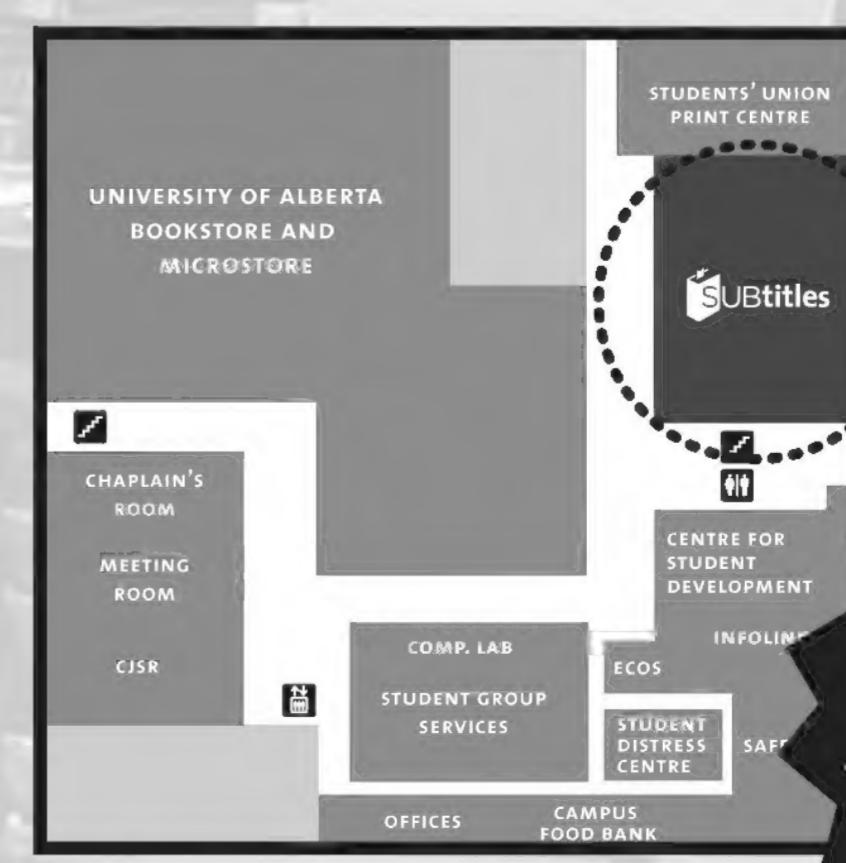
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Aging population strains system

Budget officer warns current level of spending is unsustainable for Canada

EMMA GODMERE
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — Move over, students and youth. Canada's aging population is set to be the government's top priority over the next few decades, according to a new report released by Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page.

Released February 18, the independent and first-ever "Fiscal Sustainability Report" suggests that the long-predicted demographic shift of baby boomers moving from working age to retirement age is right around the corner, and it's up to the government to take action sooner than later in order to ensure the country's economy remains sustainable.

The report details the demographic issue is two-fold: not only will there be more pressure on the government to provide more funding for health care, and elderly benefits and programs as Canadians hit retirement age, but the labour force will be effectively smaller — and so will the population from which the government collects its taxes.

"Although it is important to acknowledge that many elements of a long-term projection are uncertain, the demographic transition underway in Canada is not," the report reads.

According to the budget officer, as of 2008, there were about five prime working-age Canadians (aged 15–64) for every individual aged 65 and over. This ratio is expected to drop to just under four-to-one by 2019 and 2.5-to-1 by 2033 — a considerable decline, yet one that has been present for decades: in 1971, there were approximately 7.8 workers for every retiree, according to the report.

Page is also projecting a decline in GDP growth — while the gross domestic product per capita has normally been growing by 2.1 per cent since the 1960s, the report suggests that going forward, Canadians will likely be seeing an aver-



FRANKAPPLEYARD

TIMES A-CHANGIN' Page argues Canada needs to set attainable financial goals.

age growth rate of only 0.9 per cent, until 2059.

The report states outright that the government's current financial structure is not sustainable, as the national debt — more specifically, Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio — is expected to increase substantially if the government continues to function as they are now. To achieve

long-term financial sustainability, the report recommends "permanent fiscal actions" by way of increasing taxes, reducing program spending, or a combination of both to equal an amount between 1 and 1.9 per cent of GDP — a goal that, despite amounting to billions, the PBO emphasized is reachable.

"The fiscal action required to achieve sustainability does not need to be taken immediately [...] However, a significant delay in implementing fiscal actions substantially increases the required amount of corrective measures," the report warns.

Page indicated that plans and transparent measures are necessary to get the

country on the right track toward a sustainable economy.

"We do not have a fiscal plan with targets," he noted at a public pre-budget debate on February 3. "With no targets, we have effectively no budget constraints, and that encourages the government to balance and re-balance political priorities."

"The bottom line is, Canada has a fiscal gap. It is prudent to deal with it sooner rather than later."

While the report provided extensive data to back up its projections, the budget officer stresses in its pages that it "should not be interpreted as predictions of the most likely future outcomes. Rather, they are simply a set of 'what if' scenarios that attempt to illustrate and quantify the implications of leaving the government's current fiscal structure unchanged over time."

Canadians will see what financial plans the government has in store on March 4, when the 2010 federal budget is presented in Ottawa.

Local farms may reverse rising food costs

TOBI ELLIOTT
CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

MONTREAL (CUP) — As the cost of food continues to rise, many urbanites are finding it increasingly difficult to access and afford nutritious food.

At a bilingual panel held in Montreal in February, four panellists discussed ways to alleviate local food insecurity — the inability to afford healthy groceries without compromising access to necessities like rent.

Moderator Rotem Ayalon opened the debate by quoting from the book *In Defense of Food*: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

"But how can you follow the rules of thumb if you can't afford the fruits and vegetables at your local grocery store?" Ayalon followed up.

Each panellist at the bilingual panel, organized by students of Concordia's

School of Public Affairs, had a chance to discuss ways to fight local food insecurity.

Frédéric Paré of Montreal's Food Sovereignty Coalition said the only way food could be made more accessible, with lower prices, is if markets became state-regulated, and competition was eliminated from food production.

"The social net is fracturing, even as people count on the market forces to regulate human problems," Paré said, adding that he believes accessibility to food should be considered a human right, and defended at international policy and legislative levels.

The effects of the rising cost of food are quite obvious at Canada's largest food bank, Moisson Montréal, said community liaison Zakary O. Rhissa. The organization, which helps around 115,000 people access food each month, has seen a 15 per cent increase in the amount of

employed people turning to them.

But the problem isn't always related to finances — sometimes food insecurity is a matter of access.

Rhissa said because city grocery stores are usually situated in populated urban cores, it means they're often inaccessible to those using public transit instead of cars, creating "food deserts."

Steve Aitchison, owner of the Montreal vegan restaurant Burritoville, started his business to "alleviate some of the insecurities out there." Being near Concordia University, he tries to keep prices as low as possible. He meets the challenge by getting 95 per cent of his food locally.

Aitchison said he thinks local farming is "truly the key" to addressing food insecurity.

"It's understanding the seasons and cycles, and diminishing our desire for foods that aren't accessible," he said.

Anti-hate speech group condemns reggae artist

TERRINE FRIDAY
The Link (Concordia)

MONTREAL (CUP) — When Akim Larcher walked into a local restaurant in Toronto three years ago and saw a poster of reggae star Elephant Man promoting upcoming tour dates, he said he "got pissed off."

Larcher, who works as director of policy and research for the gay rights group Égale Canada, was appalled that Canada would allow an artist whose lyrics include hate speech to come into the country.

"I just thought, 'Something has to be done about this,' because he's being given a platform to perform and he represents a certain element of homophobic violence," Larcher said.

Out of the movement to prevent Elephant Man from entering Canada, Stop Murder Music was born.

Larcher, founder and spokesperson for Stop Murder Music, said the organization's mandate is not only to stop the spread of hate speech — which the organization has found most frequently in Jamaican dancehall reggae — but also to rectify the perception of the Caribbean as being a homophobic place.

"We wanted to correct the information in the media and let people know that [homophobia in the Caribbean] is something new. That element of violence has not always been there," Larcher said.

"The objective was to raise education and awareness about what the music actually meant. Although some people enjoy dancehall — I myself enjoy dancehall — there's certain songs and artists that are offensive."

Larcher, a law school graduate, has also been successful in getting iTunes to remove some music inciting hate towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities, including songs from Sizzla and Elephant Man.

"It was not their entire albums, just the specific songs that glorified hate and violence and murder, or that could be considered to be contravening the Criminal Code," Larcher noted.

Section 319 of the Criminal Code of

Canada states that anyone who incites hate against an identifiable group can be subject to penalty of a maximum two-year prison term.

Although the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms asserts equality before and under the law, it does not protect gender identity. Aside from the city of Toronto, the Northwest Territories, under their territorial Human Rights Act, is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does (other provinces protect sexual orientation only).

Besides focusing on Stop Murder Music, Larcher said his goal is to educate people about the oft-ignored inter-sectionality of colour and gender identity.

In a paper called "Negotiating Stigmas: Black Gay Males Reconciling Race and Sexuality," Northwestern University PhD candidate Marcus Hunter discussed the lack of qualitative theory regarding black identity and the resulting effects of leaving minorities out of queer theory and discourse.

"This [omission] imposes a cursory homogeneity upon the black community, wherein certain dividing lines within the community are blurred or ignored altogether," he wrote. "Thus, the nuances of smaller communities within this larger minority are not considered."

Although Elephant Man was not denied entry in the end, Larcher said the goal was never to stop his entire tour.

"[The campaign] got a lot of media attention and a lot of community involvement, and with that, there were many cancellations of his tours. Although some went ahead, that was fine. In my eyes, that was positive. It was important the conversation [started] and people were taking notice of this issue."



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Don't pollute the system with votes

ONCE AGAIN, STUDENTS UNION'S ELECTION season has begun. The candidates are named and busy hanging up posters while some dutiful students will begin to think over their voting decisions. Or at least that's the hope.

Last year, it seemed like the role of SU President was decided from the beginning, with no thinking required. Mathewson was charismatic, full of grand plans, and had plenty of equally charismatic drama student friends to star in his YouTube campaign videos. Of course, as we learned with Mathewson's frequent stumbles while in office and eventual resignation, he was hardly the leader he promised to be.

Which brings us to this year's crop of candidates. The few sophomore candidates obviously have the leg up as they're already on the electorate's radar screens. But should Nick Dehod be handed the title of president just because we already know his face and how his name is spelled? Obviously a voter should look at things more critically than that. It's hard not to see the SU's elections as a hopeless case. After all, most students actually involved in council have likely made up their minds due to lines drawn by alliances and friendships; the Listerites know where their loyalty stands, and it seems like the rest of the undergrads base their decision solely on superficial details, such as who's cuter and whose poster least resembles a kindergarten colouring book — or was that most?

But what about a candidate like Jaiman Chin? He's certainly made himself visible by taking the position of Vice President (Operations and Finance) when Zach Fentiman had to step up and into the presidential shoes. And that's great, I guess. We needed someone, after all, but looking forward, perhaps he should have considered it as a sloppy move for his upcoming Vice President (External) campaign. He'd only just landed in the tumultuous OpsFi territory two short weeks ago, and is now taking a leave of absence to campaign for another job.

A lot of voters might look at that as an eagerness to get involved, but at the same time, it can just as easily be read as irresponsible resumé-padding. In the middle of tuition hikes and the new provincial budget, OpsFi is an important position, so to grab on to it for such a short about of time can come off as selfish and superficial instead of helpful.

And worse, to a lot of students, it may go completely unnoticed. Either way I'm sure more than a few voters will make a rather uninformed judgment call, even if most vote out of simply remembering a name that they saw on a soon-to-be-discarded scrap of paper.

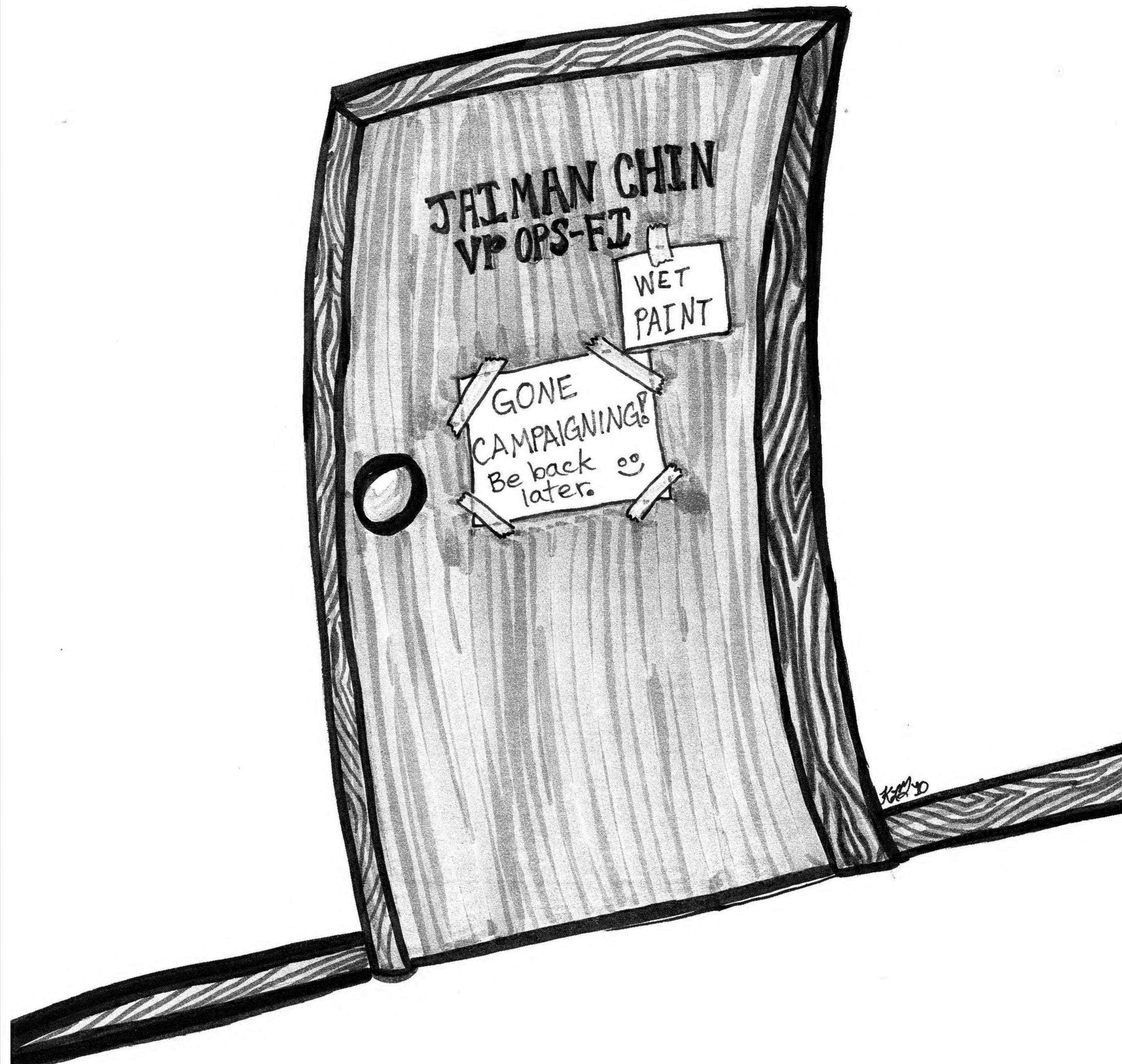
Most people may worry about voter apathy leading to low voter turnouts, but maybe it's for the best. Better to have the democracy handled by a few people who actually care and know what's going on than by hordes of uneducated voters basing their decisions off first-blush responses to campaign posters. If you plan to vote in this year's election, please actually invest the time this decision deserves. Come to the forums and listen — there are a lot of them and they're there to inform you. If you can't invest the time and are willing to make a decision based on nothing more than a poster or a single *Gateway* article, please don't bother. I'm sure we'd all rather see voter turnout plummet than watch another smooth talker make his or her way to a position that isn't deserved.

KELSEY TANASIUK
Design & Production Editor

CBS' Two And A Half Men finds a soul mate

Twitter sensation
Shit My Dad Says gets pilot
No way this will fail

NICK FROST
Currently on a trampoline break. Please check back later.



letters TO THE eds

Hello Mitty

In regards to your article on the Olympic mittens ("Olympic mittens should be given the finger, but lack the necessary dexterity," February 4), I have to say I was very disappointed in the author's opinion. While he is totally free to say what he wants about the mittens, this article was nothing more than mean-spirited bashing in an effort to find fault with a product that many love, merely with the purpose of playing devil's advocate. I doubt he has even worn a pair as he states they are made of "thin fabric." Not true — they have a very thick liner and are very warm and many friends told me so before I bought my pair.

Similarly, you can still poke someone with an Olympic mitten. You can still flip someone off with a mitten (it's implied, not seen) and while I can't do certain "practical" things with my red mittens, why would I need to type outside anyways? In truth, most winter wear, especially for the hands aren't practical anyway, so why single out mittens? Plus if they were such a hassle, why are they selling out in stores across Canada? Only some of us put fashion over function — not the majority.

Likewise, if they were "butt-ugly" why would anyone buy them?

People have to find products appealing to buy them logically. And of all the people I know, cute is the word used — not butt-ugly.

In addition, why question the intelligence of our athletes? Just because someone isn't a bobsledder does not mean he lacks a brain. We should be proud of our athletes regardless of intelligence, and I don't know why their intelligence is an issue with the author.

Finally, why would anyone equate red mittens with "blood" on my hands? This, to me, is a very far-reaching concept you seem to be grasping at for the purpose of downing on the HBC history. True, the fur trade was what it was, modern seal hunting is what it is, and yes, they were made in China and sold by an American owned company in Canada. Business is business, history is history, and a pair of red mittens isn't going to change that. But the mittens have become a *national* community builder — how often does that happen? It's not going to affect how people view us. I highly doubt the international community will shun us for wearing red mittens. Remember the paperboy hats at the Nagano Olympics? That started a fashion trend! And it isn't like we are wearing fur, which would say something; they're red mittens!

While Kevin Lee Pinkoski is allowed an opinion, he has forgotten that the Olympics are about spirit. Sure, money is made along

the way, but people choose what they spend their money on — the overwhelming support of the red mittens across the country is something that should be embraced, not scolded.

IAN FITZGERALD
Arts

from THE web

Energizer funny

RE: (Experts weigh province's nuclear prospects, February 11)

The suggestion that the nuclear power industry needs to be "more transparent" is absurd. How? The industry is under a microscope, with the tiniest things always being reported and blown way out of proportion. The public needs to be more skeptical? Of whom? Surely you mean skeptical of all the BS coming from nuclear "critics". I'd definitely argue that the public needs to develop the capacity for critical thought — that along with objectivity, logic, and the ability to grasp quantitative (mathematical) concepts. No, perceived risk does not make an energy source "undesirable." Real risks do. Perceived risks that are out of touch with reality point to the need for better public education, not shunning superior energy options.

As someone who has spent his life studying and thinking

intensively about energy issues, I find the statement that the public evaluates risk "with a broader perspective" than experts to be patronizing, as well as absurd. Most of the public's opinions are formed on the basis of very little thought or research. Experts have evaluated the risks far more thoroughly and thoughtfully, from all perspectives. The experts are simply right that the health/safety risks and environmental costs of nuclear are a tiny fraction of fossil fuels, and that the public's elevated perception of risk is purely based on misconceptions.

Consider the one example of such "broader perspectives" that the article tried to give. They made the outrageous and unsupported suggestion that nuclear-related deaths would be more painful than deaths from other causes; deaths from other energy sources being specifically relevant to the issue at hand. When people die from fossil fuel plant pollution, how do you think they die? They die the same way that people would from a (hypothetical) nuclear accident — from cancer. The only difference is that whereas North American fossil power plants have been causing approximately 30,000 cancer deaths every single year, North American nuclear plants have not caused a single public death, from cancer or anything else. Even a worst-case meltdown event would cause less cancer deaths than fossil plants cause annually.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 8

thegatewayonline.ca

“What is that, a website for ants? How can you expect them to go there if they can’t see the link?”

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TOM L'ABBE

VP EXTERNAL ADEN MURPHY
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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION

Lacking the climax over climate

Deciphering climate change is no easy problem, so quit treating it like it is

DAVID KACZAN



At the start of 2010, after 20 years of global warming research and argument, a key question remains: just how well is the science translating into action?

Well, concluding from the current state of affairs, pretty badly. Climate skeptics are resurgent, whilst climate scientists — and their numerous affiliates — are taking on water. The Copenhagen “conference” was a disaster by even the most generous standards. The central scientific authority on the issue, the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), is under siege for a series of minor but embarrassing errors. Hacked emails are fuelling the fires of a thousand blogs, and the public is more confused than ever before.

But we should keep this in perspective. Climate change dwarfs any other scientific issue humanity has ever dealt with, in both scale and complexity. It’s this complexity that is finally foiling the best efforts of advocates to turn science into policy.

Climate science is so complicated that only those who make a living from its study really understand it. Don’t ask me if the world is warming — I’m not a scientist. But don’t ask the thousands of pseudo-scientific columnists, politicians, or industry “experts” either. They don’t know, despite their

claims otherwise, because there is no definitive argument to be made. Climate science lacks the trump card that otherwise make such issues comprehensible to the uninitiated.

Instead, climate science is the excruciating exercise of tallying the disparate strands of suggestion. No strand prevails alone — but when woven together, a picture emerges.

Worse, climate science is drenched in uncertainty, which despite shrill claims to the contrary, is acknowledged by scientists. The IPCC assessment report qualifies every “fact” of significance with a probability. Given that the last report ran well over 3,000 pages, that’s a fairly non-trivial effort. But such practices come naturally to scientists who deal with statistical variance on a daily basis.

In fact, doubt is the essential language of science. In politics, however, doubt is death. Most politicians, policy advocates, and journalists struggle with the nuances of statistical confidence. But even if they didn’t, to discuss such things with voters would be suicide — if you’re explaining, you’re losing.

Hence, those who have been keen to push policy in a particular direction, be they oilands oligarchs or environmental activists, have emphasized the most dramatic of claims. Depending on who you listen to, we’re either on course for an ecological apocalypse or the economic impoverishment of the western world. Meanwhile, the middle ground, with its pesky uncertainty, isn’t sexy enough to talk about.

But it’s this middle ground where the majority of scientists — the only people who really understand the nuance of

the issue — stand. Not that this gives cause for optimism: the most cautious, conservative science still suggests we have a major problem on our hands.

This remains the case despite the tarnishing of the IPCC’s reputation. The flaws discovered were regrettable but inconsequential to the fundamental theory. Likewise, the hacking of personal emails from University of East Anglia (the dubiously named “Climategate” scandal) showed a frustrating tribalism in the body-scientific, but no global conspiracy.

It’s this tribalism that has been so damaging. Advocates square off against deniers and the message is lost in the firefight. No wonder the public is confused regarding what to think. And whilst the public is confused, the carbon-intensive status quo rules supreme.

So where does this leave us, then? Environmentalists have reason to be disappointed by the scientists’ recent blunders. The science remains essentially unchanged, but public perception has shifted miles due to the minor yet highly visible failures of review and transparency.

The IPCC will need to undergo a very public overhaul, with new standards and perhaps new leadership. And advocates on both sides will have to get used to talking about uncertainty. The best approach is to admit that we don’t know exactly what global warming has in store for us, but given the risk, doing something is prudent. If this message doesn’t cut through, the next 20 years of the global warming debate will be as divisive as the last, and 20 years to make a decision is not time we have.

CONTINUED FROM LETTERS • PAGE 7

There is no “perspective” under which nuclear is not vastly superior to fossil fuels. And no, global warming is not the only reason nuclear should be considered. As shown above, even if global warming were not real, nuclear is vastly superior to coal with respect to public health and the environment.

JIM HOPF
Via Internet

Carbon mot

RE: (Carbon Capture & Storage: The Science Beneath Us & The Controversy Before Us, February 4)

Carbon Capture and Storage is — if you’ll forgive the pun — a pipe dream. The articles fail to mention the tremendous amount of energy required to compress the CO₂. While it may be true that the pressure at 800 m would be such as to maintain the CO₂ in a supercritical state, one must get the stuff down there in the first place, which requires compression. This would dramatically reduce the energy efficiency of coal based electrical generation, (only about 30 per cent at best as it is) meaning one must burn much more coal (and produce more CO₂) to compensate.

When the fact is that at least some percentage of the CO₂ will inevitably find its way back to the surface, the whole expensive exercise is rendered essentially moot. The real impetus for CCS is for the oil companies to get taxpayers’ money to pay for enhanced oil recovery. There may be a place for CCS in the future to reduce the last few drops of CO₂ emission that cannot be eliminated by other means. As an incredibly expensive, untestable, and most probably futile exercise, CCS should be

the very last technique applied to the problem of global warming. It is a useful truism that it is advantageous to pick the low-hanging fruit first — in greenhouse gas reduction, the very low hanging fruits are improving energy efficiency and reducing waste. CCS is a very high fruit indeed.

JAMES MCLAREN
Via Internet

Ending the way we began

RE: (Olympic hatred should be torched, February 11)

First of all, this article perpetuates the ridiculous supposition that somehow sports and patriotism should be exclusively intertwined. Why are these individuals “without a pulse” somehow less worthy human beings because they believe that there are larger issues than sports which pervade society? Many of these individuals would express more fervent patriotism for Canada because we have a better health care system, human rights record, and a more egalitarian country — instead of being proud of Canada because we slide down some ice faster than the Swedes. I don’t mean to diminish the value of sport (which seems, by the way, to be an omnipresent critique of Olympic dissenters) as sport has its place as a motivator of athleticism, and pedagogical tool for team dynamics. But the fact that the fastest man in the world is a Jamaican does not necessarily show how Jamaica is the greatest nation to have ever graced the face of the planet.

Secondly, you seem to think that progressive individuals have no place at the Olympics. I would like to point out that the games have been politicized long before anti-Olympic activism gained any ground. For example, the tradition

of the torch run actually began in Nazi Germany. Individuals who come out in protest of the games are attempting to depoliticize the games and bring them back towards what they are actually about — sport. Most anti-Olympic activists have little problem with the Stanley Cup Finals or the World Series because they’re associated with simply sport and not the nationalistic forces, and security crackdowns which are so central to the modern Olympiad. Also, you seem to suggest that a politicized games are something that those who oppose it should just sit back and ignore. Heaven forbid that progressive people try to enact some sort of change upon a static world and move us towards a better tomorrow.

I agree that the Olympics should be only about sport. However, your ideas about dissent in regards to the Games are ultimately at fault. I can only assume that you wrote this article while wearing a pair of those omnipresent, and frankly idiotic Olympic mittens.

ANDREW DOUGLAS
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed. This week is a particularly excellent example of that axiom.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Olympics not just playing games



ALIX KEMP

After arriving in Vancouver to visit friends over Reading Week, my feelings about the Olympics were immediately validated. As my friend and I headed for a couple of seats on the SkyTrain, a girl nearby stopped us. "I wouldn't sit there if I were you," she cautioned. "Somebody just threw up." And sure enough, the seat was covered in that thin, watery paste of vomit that's the result of a stomach filled with nothing but liquor. At 10 p.m. on a Friday night, someone had already been publicly demonstrating their national pride in the most repulsive manner possible. Welcome to the Olympics.

The economic and social cost of the Games has been enormous: \$6 billion for the Games and related infrastructures, between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs lost throughout the province, and homelessness in Vancouver has doubled. And for what? The Olympic torch is 15 metres behind a three-metre tall chain-link fence, surrounded by a featureless field of concrete — a perfect symbol of the inaccessibility of the Games to most Canadians.

As a kid, though, I loved the Olympics. I have incredibly fond memories of rooting for Kurt Browning to win the gold in Norway '94. And although I lost interest in the Games as I grew older, I was still intensely proud to see Jeffrey Buttle

take home the bronze four years ago. What's changed in that time is that I've become more aware of the toll the Olympics tend to take from the host cities. The drunken idiots currently overrunning Vancouver, getting wasted at parties, and calling it "national pride" make it even easier to see everything that's wrong with the Games. Still, there's inevitably a part of me that looks at the medals we've won in these Games and feels good about it.

There's something to be said for an event like the Games that has the ability to bring that many people together, and the sense of community that exists within those groups.

No matter how disillusioned I've become, there's still something about the Olympics that resonates with me. The Games have long promoted unity and a global spirit of co-operation. Despite the divide between protesters and Olympic enthusiasts, there's something to be said for an event like the Games that has the ability to bring that many people together, and the sense of community that exists within those groups.

The Games have also highlighted Canadian values — whether those are a sense of national pride and a joy in sport, or a celebration of free speech and (mostly) peaceful

protest. Is that worth the enormous price tag? Well, that's an ongoing debate, but it's something. I'm incapable of watching the ecstatic glee of a 10-year-old who hopes to actually see the Canadians take gold in hockey, remembering my own rapt hours in front of the television, and then saying that everything to do with the Olympics is completely wrong.

I went to Vancouver expecting to hate the Games and everything they stood for. And of course, there are about a million and one things wrong with the Olympics — the mass commercialization; the crowded streets and constant sense of claustrophobia; the disgruntled locals; the protesters' accusations of a police state which seem to have some bearing when considering the nearly billion-dollar security budget; and the cameras installed around the city and on public transit. Furthermore, it's impossible to ignore the human cost of the festivities if you take a wander down Hastings, past the tent city erected for the homeless displaced by the city's attempt at clean-up. In short, the protests and accusations towards the Games in general are often right on target.

However, it's also true that the Games are based on some universally warm and fuzzy ideals I think most of us can get behind. As much as I hate to admit it, watching Canadians welcome visitors from all over the world, be they loudly cheering or vehemently protesting, is ridiculously heart-warming.

That all said, the guy who puked on the SkyTrain? Yeah, he's still an asshole.

Nothing to change except 'Change' itself



ROBERT FRIGON

During his presidential campaign, Barack Obama advocated for what he called "real change." But with the release of the 2010 budget, he showed that his change was nothing more than a product jingle. The concept of change sounds nice, but Obama's Change with a capital C is little more than a Band-Aid for a gaping wound. The promises that inspired both a nation and the world have turned out to be a sham.

Obama's Change was supposed to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich, but with this budget, dollars that were supposed to fill that void have been frozen. His administration has shown itself as nothing more than a cut-and-paste shop. Taking the old, changing a few minute figures, and then slapping on a shiny new presidential crest, all the while saying it's Change, and one for the better.

The first conceptual Change affects the U.S. government spending on the war budget. With or without adjustment for inflation, their defense budget this year will be the largest during peace time since WWII. As well, it'll be a mere \$18 billion — or 10 per cent — below former president Bush's average war budget of \$176 billion during Iraqi occupation; the key difference being that there is *not* an ongoing conflict at the moment. The funding for all other sectors of the budget except Veterans' Affairs and

Medicare were frozen. What happened to the Change that spoke of smaller war budgets, and more help for those at home?

The Obama administration promised to spend at home and reduce the U.S. national deficit from just below 40 per cent of Gross Domestic Product to 20 per cent by the 2014/15 budget. If the world's leading economy cannot balance spending — in particular deficits — the rest of the world is doomed to failure. With the 2010 budget, the Obama administration shows that the U.S. cannot lead the world. Obama's budget seems to have forgotten about his concept of Change and instead has struck forth a new course, one that increases the debt-to-GDP ratio to over 60 per cent.

The U.S. economy needs to be righted before it sinks both itself and the economies of other nations.

This debt burden is expected to continue to grow, as many of the incentives are based around long-term spending, which is not expected to decrease for years to come. Any economic shock that affects Americans will effect outside its borders, just as the world has seen with the U.S. housing meltdown. The Change in Obama's slogan will lead to a debt-riddled future and a shaky one for the rest of the world.

This debt will grow by \$1.75 trillion for last year and an expected \$1.7 trillion for this fiscal year. Last year's U.S. deficit was an

all-time record high, eclipsing the old mark by almost three times. Their national debt today stands close to \$12.6 trillion, or roughly \$40,000 per American. I would urge President Obama that amassing large deficits is not the sort of Change that's in the best interest of his country. And the decisions don't become easier — Obama needs to stand up for real change and fulfill his campaign promises. He should look to within his borders before looking outwards. Though much blame is put on the back of Bush, that has to be in the past at this point. The future is the Change that Obama preached. The U.S. economy needs to be righted before it sinks itself and the economies of other nations. This can be accomplished by focusing on debt reduction and at-home spending.

Obama's Change will conceivably bring about changes in the years to come, but it will be for the worse. His budget is looking at today's presidential popularity polls, not the future of his country. No hard decisions have been made, and the meaning that everyone felt Change entailed has fallen by the wayside, leading a debt-burdened nation into the future. The U.S. is on a crash course with a 100 per cent debt-to-GDP ratio. This will not stand, and will cripple the nation and the world — Canada alone trades more than 40 per cent of our GDP to the U.S. If the American economy is crippled by debt, world trade and economies will suffer. Real change is needed today for tomorrow — and it's going to take some serious changes in the U.S. definition of the term before we start seeing any.

VIDEO GAME ANTIQUITIES:

THE KONAMI CODE

Up Up, Down Down, Left Right Left Right, B A Start. That's the code password that video game company Konami first introduced in 1985's *Gradius* and against all odds, it's survived and evolved over the years to become a hidden easter egg staple of hundreds of games from Konami and beyond. Entered properly, it activates God Modes, funny costumes, designer in-jokes and a hundred other iterations on the theme. It even works on Facebook!

We're not promising you infinite lives if you enter the code during *Gateway Opinion* volunteer meetings on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in SUB 3-04. But it has been known to cause the Opinion Editor to enter Funny Hat Mode, which everyone finds amusing. Why not come on up and try it out for yourselves — and maybe crack the secrets of journalism while you're at it?

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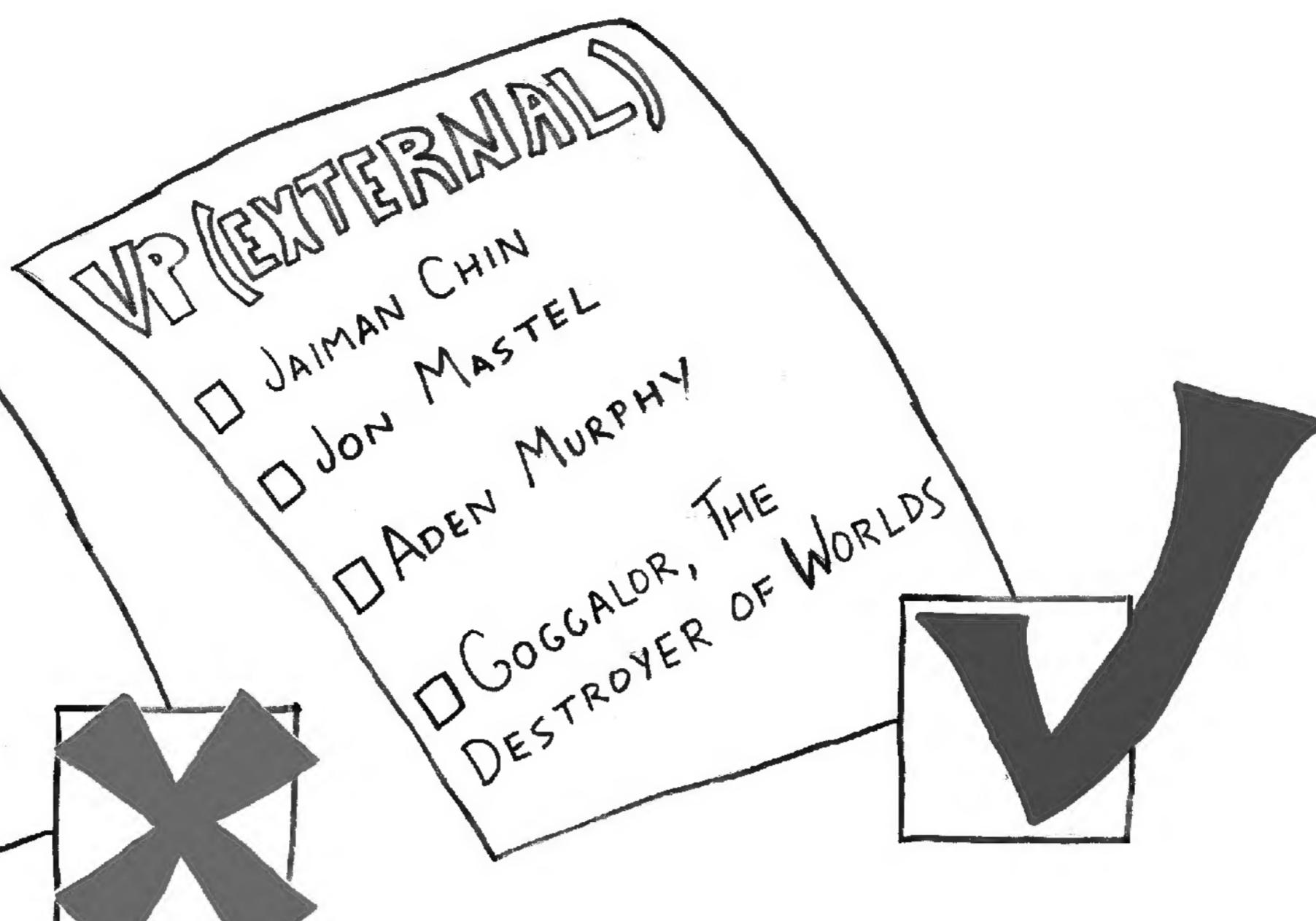
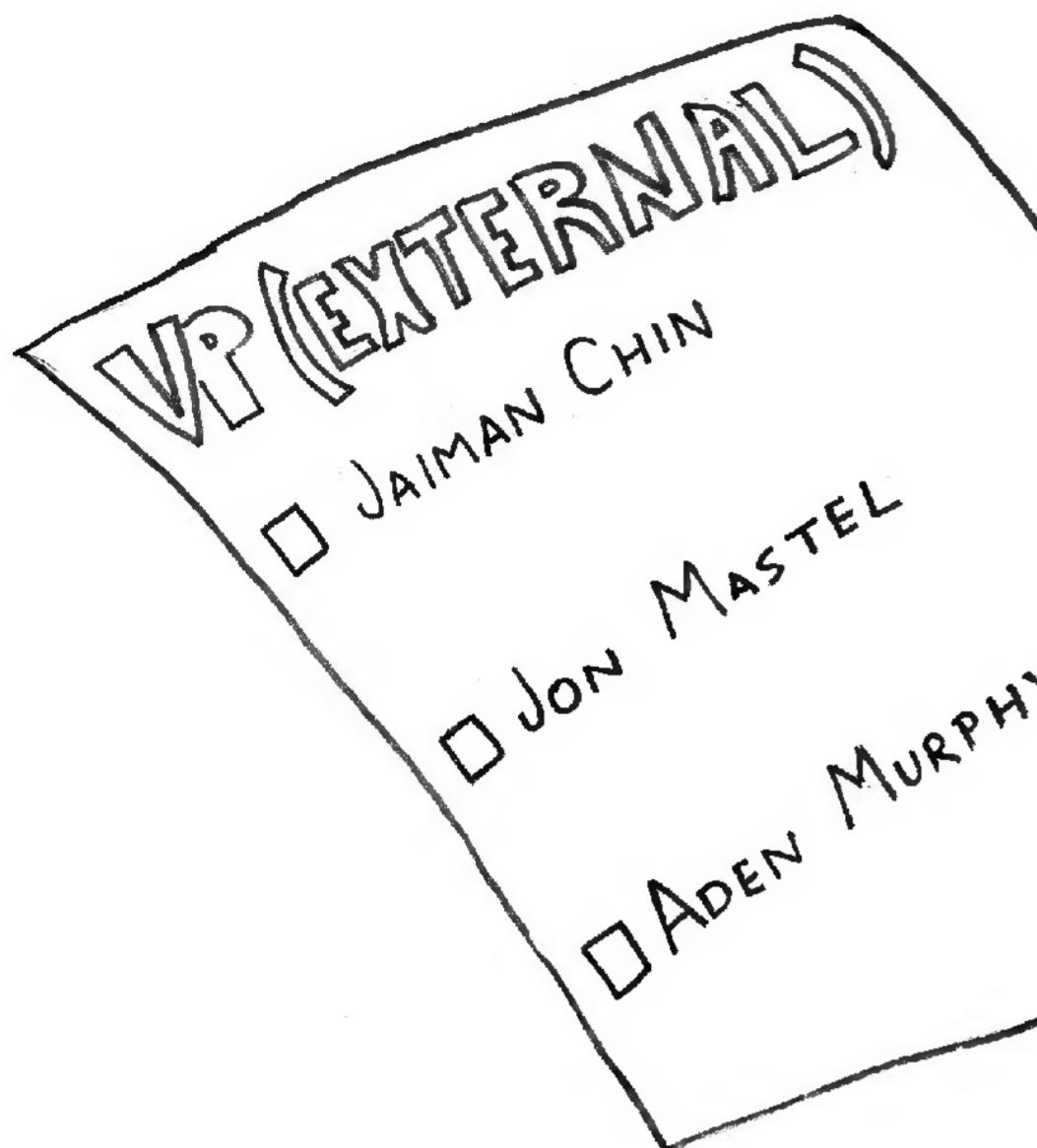
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PREFERENTIAL BALLOT Admit it. Which of these actual proposed ballot designs would bring a smile to your face just a little bit faster? Yes, that's what we thought.

A bit of humour can keep candidates human



DAVID JOHNSTON

"This isn't a preaching on the requirements of an election to be considered valid and important, nor is it pondering whether the joke candidates actually are funny, or even debating the general usefulness of the SU. The fact remains, however, that the mere presence of joke options injects a sense of levity into the proceedings that's usually notoriously absent, and that's something inherently valuable to any campaign."

Hey, have you noticed that the SU election season has started? If your answer is "Yes," then it's clear you've been reading the *Gateway* so far, and we've obviously been doing our job. If your answer is "No," then clearly the hundreds of man-hours that the candidates and campaigners spent doing arts and crafts over Reading Week were all for naught. And if your answer is "None of the above," then it'll probably be eliminated in the first round due to preferential balloting.

There are many issues that are going to be inundating the average student over the next two weeks — who to vote for, in what order, whose poster is the prettiest, and how to get to class without being tackled by a series of aspiring student politicians and their followers, desperate to claim a few more Undecideds before the week is up. But there are some issues regarding the campaign that simply aren't going to get the coverage they deserve, with the most pressing example being the conspicuous drought of joke candidates in the running this year.

Has everyone finished claiming their punchline? Probably something along the lines of "Every candidate is a joke candidate!"? Good? Good. But in what's becoming a recurring trend, however, this marks the second year in recent memory during my tenure at the University that there hasn't been a single joke candidate, unless you find names like "Zepp" inherently funny. I remember the days of candidates like Soundwave, and Chuck Norris, and the/future, which I still don't fully get the in-joke of, but I appreciate the spirit behind nonetheless. And even last year, which didn't officially have any joke candidates, still had Mustapha Makhdoom, who with his rather ... let's go with "unorthodox" speeches, was close enough in my books.

But this year? Not an open mockery of the electoral system in sight. And that's a real shame, because the joke candidates are arguably the most memorable part of any election. Some would argue that this is a good sign, that not wasting the time and money of the SU with such tomfoolery is a

step in the right direction. But I just don't see it. Don't misinterpret me — this isn't a preaching on the requirements of an election to be considered valid and important, nor is it pondering on whether the joke candidates actually are funny, or even debating on the general usefulness of the SU. The fact remains, however, that the mere presence of joke options inject a sense of levity into the proceedings that's usually notoriously absent, and that's something inherently valuable.

In the way the system is normally set up, in fact, it seems that virtually no one is having fun with the election. And, sure, fun isn't the immediate priority of the election, but there shouldn't be anything wrong with people enjoying themselves at this time of year. Unfortunately, candidates are too stressed with the hopes of winning to do so, as they're granted a ridiculously short campaigning period and need to spend every second making their face known. Voters, meanwhile, rarely have the time to completely and utterly invest themselves in every race and debate to the level

that the system appears to want us to. And non-voters are just generally bemused by the plethora of ugly posters that settle over the campus for a fortnight like a pack of two-dimensional seagulls, except with more feces.

Joke candidates are precisely what the campaign trail needs to not take itself so seriously. A hint of light-hearted funniness can go a long way towards making any of the candidates seem a little more human, a little more relatable, and a little less like a nameless face spouting terms like "sustainability" and "advocacy" all over the place. It's be hard to be stonefaced and serious when you're on the ballot next to Soundwave.

So bring on the dumb puns, the stupid names, the inane in-jokes, and the tired old costumed presentations. Alternately, it's not too late for any of the candidates to pull a Makhdoom and send their legitimate campaign on a collision course with a brick wall, in hopes of soliciting a few half-hearted chuckles. Heavens know we could all use a few of those 'round these parts.

THE BURLAP SACK

Being that Valentine's Day has just passed, I know that I'm not alone in nursing a tender case of rejection. This might confuse anyone who I've ever met, as you might assume that I'd be the kind of guy who'd be numb to the consequences of social ineptitude by now. However, thanks to the questionable judgment on the part of my beloved fiancée, I've actually been spared these pains for some time. This is why my many years of debilitating awkwardness failed to protect me last week, from the cold-hearted rejection by the Canwest media conglomerate.

Canwest is working on a feature on employment opportunities for engineers. One of the pieces will be on alternative energy. I was asked to be an example of a young person in said category from the U of A. Naturally, I was immediately giddy with the concept of national exposure, which I know inevitably precedes fame and fortune.

Then came the devastating twist; it was revealed that the U of A doesn't actually have an alternative energy program. I was cast aside as Canwest sought out other Canadian universities for their article. "Good luck jerks," I mused, confident that I wouldn't be so easy to replace, "we're the energy capital of Canada!"

Well, it turns out, it was pretty easy for them to find. There are a load of other universities with some sort of program dedicated to it. Somehow, even those hicks at the U of C even have an entire energy and environment building under construction, while we fund a Petroleum Engineering program for a graduating class I can count with my toes.

For the University of Alberta not being progressive enough to roll in the same circles as Calgarians or the *National Post* (and thus hurting my feelings), I summon them to the itchy hell that is the Burlap Sack. It's pretty dark in there, but hey — this is the energy capital of Canada, so find a way to brighten things up.

JASON LUK

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

Corb Lund: cowboy connoisseur and gentleman



musicpreview

Corb Lund

Two shows with Ridley Bent
 Thursday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.
 Jubilee Auditorium (11455-87 Ave.)
 \$35-45 at Ticketmaster
 and
 Friday, February 26 at 8 p.m.
 Edmonton Event Centre (8882-170 St.)
 \$39.50 (or \$74.50 for both shows) at
 Ticketmaster

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

Ever since the heyday of local legends The Smalls, Corb Lund has been a fixture on the Edmonton scene. Against all odds, he and his band, the Hurtin' Albertans, have taken their unique brand of country music to levels that the average underground band could only dream of.

In a time when legendary outlaws like Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson are consistently outsold by Nashville pop acts like Rascal Flatts, it would seem unlikely that a group of young, scruffy Canadians would be able to break through with songs about cowboys and the quirker points of the rural lifestyle. But it would appear that these four guys have struck a nerve, making waves as far away as Australia. Touring in support of their latest album, *Losin' Lately Gambler*, Lund is excited about returning home to play a couple of shows.

"We deliberately did this. People were asking why we didn't play here at the start of the tour in the fall, but the reason is we wanted to play at the tail end of our *Losin' Lately Gambler* tour [...] Edmonton is really special. I've been telling people how cool Edmonton is for years," Lund says.

After a move to a new label, the band released an album that has been lauded as their best effort

yet. It builds upon their solid discography with songs about vets, steer riding, a female gunfighter, and a heartfelt ballad that observes the damage done to our beautiful province by oil companies. One night will showcase the instrumental skills of the band, and the other provides an opportunity for fans to live out the lyrics to "Time to Switch to Whiskey."

Living up to the country boy work ethic, Lund has already been planning his next album while extensively touring the world. Over the years, he has helped many emerging groups build their fan base as opening acts on his tours.

"There is a lot of great country music out there that a lot of people don't know about," he says. "There's a lot of people that don't really follow the independent music scene or don't have the time or know where to go for it. I think there is a lot of cool country music that they might find interesting if they actually had a chance to hear it."

Lund has never been shy about his disdain for modern popular country music, and has shared his time with many genuine country artists over the years. His outspoken views on the state of music contrast with his band's own popularity, but he sees that as an advantage.

"I'm doing a record this fall — hopefully it will be out this fall — we're still working on it. [It's tentatively] called *Songs That My Friends Wrote*. It's going to be all songs from my buddies that are songwriters. It's kind of weird [...] I have the ear of a lot of country fans who may not know about these cool underground bands, so I'm really trying to introduce a bunch of people to a bunch of cool bands they may not know about."

While his music is often cited as being "outlaw" country, the man himself rejects that image through his actions and words. A kind, caring man who proudly proclaims his love for the Edmonton Oilers even when they're in the depths of a horrible season, he's an ambassador for genuine country folk. A hardworking man who has a soft heart for a good horse, Corb Lund is a living example of the mythical cowboy.

You Might As Well Live adds to proud tradition of Canadian comedy

filmreview

You Might As Well Live

Directed by Simon Ennis
 Starring Joshua Peace, Michael Madsen, and Dov Tiefenbach
 Now available on DVD

EDMON ROTEA
 Arts & Entertainment Staff

When wandering the aisles of your local video store, Canadian-made comedies can rarely be found. For a country that's produced mainstream hits like *Porky's* and *Young People Fucking*, the little-known direct-to-DVD release *You Might As Well Live* adds to the growing list of Canadian-made coming-of-age sex comedies.

You Might As Well Live is the story of Robert Mutt (played by writer and actor Joshua Peace), a naïve 30-something who's failed at many things in life, including his own suicide. With his stereotypical 1980s-style pedophile glasses and retro clothing, Robert's family thinks he's "slow," his neighbours think he's a child-porn-seeking pervert, and the rest of the townsfolk think he's a total douche bag. One day, life is made more difficult for Robert when he is released from the local mental hospital for being too happy.

Despite life's challenges, Robert is determined to prove to everyone

in town that he, too, can be a success. Acting on the advice of a local baseball hero, Northeastern Inter-Country Farm League Champion Clinton Manitoba (played by actor Michael Madsen of *Sin City* and *Kill Bill* fame), Robert embarks on the journey to attain the three keys to success in life: some money, a girl, and a championship ring.

You Might As Well Live adds to the growing list of Canadian-made coming-of-age sex comedies.

What ensues is a hilarious adventure complete with full-frontal male nudity, a wacky weatherman, a disastrous drug-running stint, a romantic evening with a roller-skating transvestite, a painful conversion into Judaism, and a failed air hockey tournament that later leads to unexpected success.

What makes *You Might As Well Live* a future Canadian comedy classic is the film's slapstick visual jokes and its witty dialogue. From the film's outrageous penis-size comparison joke, to its funny portrayal of a failed suicide attempt, *You Might As Well Live* features many jokes that bring humour to otherwise taboo or controversial subject matter. The film also brings a lot of laughter to



otherwise depressing situations, from Robert's bed-ridden mother to his bed-ridden girlfriend, and features a continuous theme of jokes that concern the ill, the disabled, and those who can only utter one-word.

The film also takes pot shots at right-wing anti-child-pornography crusaders, sexual bondage, Jews, the mentally ill, and the poor. Such mockery of contentious issues are balanced

by the film's many sight gags, from a nude chase scene featuring parkour, to a fun hallucinogenic evening at the roller disco — the humour is constant and unrelenting.

The only shortcoming of *You Might As Well Live* is its short runtime. At only 79 minutes, the film ends sooner than expected. While it never features a dull moment, the action occasionally happens too

quickly, but at a pace that audiences with short attention spans will appreciate. For a direct-to-DVD release, the film is rather barebones in features with just the standard scene selection and a director's commentary track. Fortunately, *You Might As Well Live* is another Canadian comedy that you might as well rent and watch the next time you visit the comedy aisle of your local video store.

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The Dish serves up runaway entrées

Despite a few issues with the main course, The Dish is still worth your taste buds

diningreview

The Dish & the Runaway Spoon

Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
(780) 488-6641
12417 Stony Plain Rd.MICHAEL O'NEILL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Some might argue that choosing a restaurant based purely on its delightful name and the number of dollar signs beside it in a restaurant handbook (two out of four) is far too risky. This is especially true if you're a vegetarian, which my companion is. However, in the spirit of adventure, she and I did exactly that, and ended up at The Dish & the Runaway Spoon.

Located just off 124 Street, the restaurant is actually called The Dish, with the name of its partner caterer completing the clever play on words. Established in 1979, experience, creativity, and a commitment to fresh local produce proved to be a winning combination.

Entering the restaurant, we stood around awkwardly for a few moments, not knowing whether we should seat ourselves, as there was no staff in sight, nor a sign requesting that we wait to be seated. We began moving slowly towards the nearest table with the hope that we had made the right decision and wouldn't be painfully embarrassed, and we were successful. We sat down and basked in the warmth of the cozy room with antique furniture and local artwork scattered around.

As we browsed the rather substantial menu, a number of items caught our eyes, but forced by a student budget to choose only one appetizer, we decided on the Pear & Cambazola Triangles (\$13.25). It proved to be a wise choice. Served straight out of the oven with a green salad on the side, it could be described as a deep-dish flatbread. The cambazola cheese, similar to Camembert, was deliciously paired with the pears and caramelized onion base.

The cheese theme continued into the entrées. I ordered the Wild Mushroom and Feta Pasta (\$16.25), and my companion tried the Gourmet Mac and Cheese with caesar salad (\$15.75). The



MICHAEL O'NEILL

Mac and Cheese supposedly contained Asiago, Gouda, and cheddar cheeses — however, all we tasted was cream. The "parsley garlic butter crumb topping" took more away from the dish than it gave. It was a bit like having sand spread over your pasta. My dish was better, but not by much. The feta was rubbery and bland, as were the mushrooms, though the freshly grated Asiago was a nice touch.

Despite the lacklustre food, it's worth mentioning the exemplary service. My companion, neglecting to mention she was a vegetarian, received bacon on her salad. Our request for a new salad was immediately granted without a word of complaint, and without an extra charge.

Full, but not stuffed after the entrées, it was only the fear of disappointing the loyal Gateway readership by not reviewing a full meal that convinced us to order dessert. That,

and I wanted to give the restaurant a chance to redeem itself. Expecting to see a dessert menu, we were surprised when our waiter came bearing a tray with the desserts on display. I decided on the Old Fashioned English Sticky Toffee Pudding, and my companion had the Brownie (\$6 each). Both came served with generous portions of ice cream, and were delicious. The sticky pudding was warm and moist, the toffee standing out wonderfully, while the brownie did justice to a classic.

This meal succeeded in stuffing both my partner and I, and I found myself not finishing dessert — a rare occasion. Unfortunately, the entrees failed to impress me in the same way the appetizer and desserts had. This in mind, I would still wholeheartedly recommend this restaurant to any hungry student living away from home as a substitute for momma's cookin' (just don't tell her I said so).

of shaking your hand.

That said, if you're at all acquainted with the net's lewdest content, it's nothing you haven't seen before. In fact, much of the fun can come from out-trolling the trolls, donning masks — literal or otherwise — and playing characters in a fleeting interaction that's sure to only last a few minutes before vanishing into the ether.

Even better, beyond all of the cocks, shocks, and lolcats, it's still possible to meet an interesting stranger and have a decent conversation about anything from the weather, to politics, to an obscure band that only you and seven other people have heard of. In this sense, it's the ultimate ice-breaker; a consequence-free, no-strings-attached conversation generator that works a hell of a lot better than practising in front of a mirror.

Since I discovered Chatroulette in November during its infantile stage, it's now gone viral, meaning there's an even deeper pool of freaks and geeks to meet. If you do happen to meet Boba Fett or a guy claiming that a wizard has transformed him into a horse-man, though, keep your finger off the "Next" button — I'll keep my eyes open for Gateway readers while I'm at it.

MIKE KENDRICK
Editor-in-Chief

There's always a rush in spinning a roulette wheel, banking on odds governed only by the sheer will of the fates. Chatroulette takes that thrill and offers a strangely voyeuristic web experience.

The premise: click the "Play" button and you're randomly paired with one of the thousands of Internet strangers logged in with you. The twist: in addition to a one-on-one chat room, video and audio are the main focus, offering a brief

The site isn't without its share of unfiltered web content, either. Like predecessors, Chatroulette blazes a new frontier where users and content arrive before moderation. As a result, it's not uncommon to be subjected to a variety of mature imagery, including goatse and tubgirl shock images, and the hundreds of faceless men who'd prefer to introduce themselves by beating their meat instead

1

Vancouver's Brasstronaut embraces the DIY lifestyle

musicpreview

Brasstronaut

With Woodhands
Wednesday, February 24 at 8 p.m.
The Pawnshop (10549-82 Ave.)
\$14.50 at Megatunes and Blackbyrd

MADELINE SMITH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

British Columbia's Brasstronaut is getting ready to release their first full-length album and embark on a lengthy tour in both Canada and the United States, but as frontman Edo Van Breemen explains, the rockstar life has not exactly been glamorous so far.

"There's been a lot of rushing to the finish line," Van Breemen says about the preparations for the upcoming tour. "I've never done it before, but I've been making my own shirts, and I have to make 200. I made 70 last night; I stayed up until five in the morning [...] and I basically fumigated myself."

Van Breemen's do-it-yourself dedication to the band is just another example of Brasstronaut's commitment to their craft. In early 2009, they were given the opportunity to spend two months at the Banff Centre for the Arts, devoting their time exclusively to working on the music that eventually became their album *Mt. Chimaera*.

"We wanted to experiment with our arrangements and also with our instrumentation," Van Breemen says of their different approach to the new music. "So, instead of just being this dogmatic — what people think of as Brasstronaut — we wanted to just try to bring out whatever the song was suggesting to us. We wanted to try to manifest that instrumentally and arrangement-wise."

"We wanted [the songs] to be as representative as possible of our band," Van Breemen explains, "but also, beyond that, add sounds that you wouldn't hear live. There are some electronics going on there that are very subtle."

Brasstronaut may work hard, but they certainly know how to party hard, too — something that actually helped them network on their recent trip to the 2009 Iceland Airwaves Festival in Reykjavik.

"Sigur Rós' horn section played with us, and that came out of just meeting them super drunkenly out in some bar. Plus, I ended up hanging out with Björk's son, Sindri, who is a real weirdo," Van Breemen adds.

Not only was Brasstronaut rubbing elbows with veritable royalty from the Icelandic music scene, but the band members also found themselves getting closer in ways they may not have expected.

"[The festival] rented an apartment for us, and it turned out to be a two-bedroom apartment. And we had, like, an entourage. Six people in the band, [...] John [our bass player's] wife came along, two friends of mine came along, our sound engineer



came along, and a photographer from Vancouver came. And then we were also sharing this apartment with five European Union exchange students. So there were 16 people, and we had one bathroom."

"That whole trip was a big mess," he laughs.

All this might sound less than ideal, but Van Breemen has nothing but positive things to say about his time in Iceland. "As far as experiences go, for sure, that was a great one," he says. "It was amazing, because I think they pushed us super hard

there at the festival. So we had, like, 2,000 people come out to our show. It was weird."

The attention Brasstronaut received in Iceland is surprising to Van Breemen now, but he might have to start getting used to increased interest in the band back home. With any luck, although they currently consider themselves better known in Reykjavik than in Vancouver, the members of Brasstronaut won't remain underground in Canada for long.

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DuckTales

It's a tough call, but it's a call the Gateway comics and illustration team is willing to make.

Meetings are Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in SUB 3-04. Right here on campus, so there's no worries if there's a hurricane in Duckberg.

THE GATEWAY:
It's been a duckblur since 1910.

The Gateway is hiring a Circulation Public Affairs Liaison (Circulation PAL)

The position's duties include:

- delivering the Gateway to designated locations on and around campus as soon as possible after delivery from the printer,
- sorting incoming newspapers and other publications and displaying them neatly in the Gateway offices, and
- coordinating collation of the year's issues of the Gateway for the production of bound editions at the end of the year.

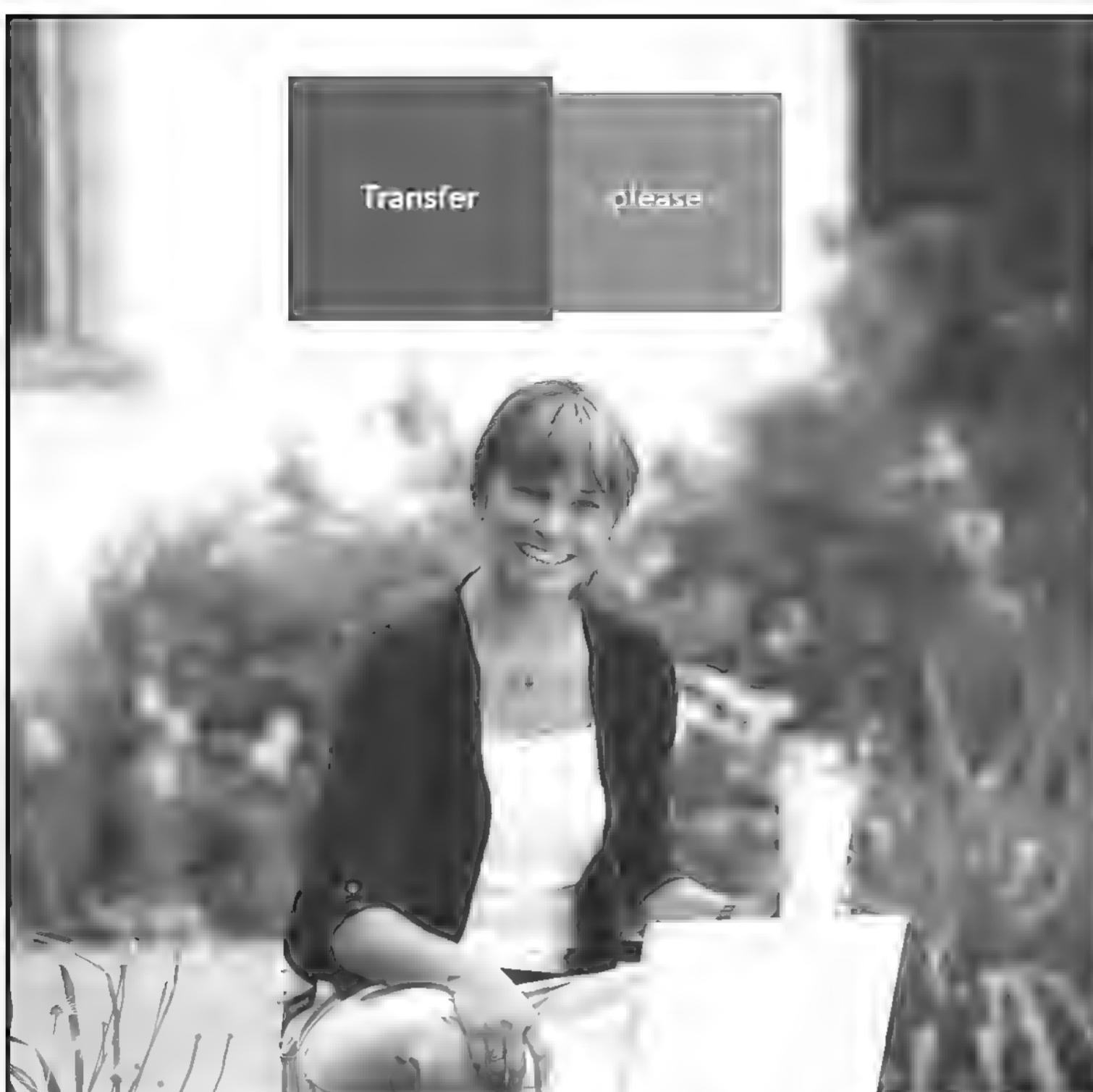
The successful applicant will:

- be reliable and hard-working with excellent organization and time-management skills,
- be available Tuesday and Thursday mornings and early afternoons (meaning no classes before 2pm on those days),
- possess a valid driver's license, be 21 years of age or more, and be able to produce a clean driver's abstract; and
- be registered in at least one course for credit during each of the Fall and Winter terms.

The position requires ten hours per week (less if you're speedy), runs from March 2 until 30 April, 2010. Salary is \$500 per month. We are seeking to fill this position immediately, and will close the position as soon as we find an acceptable candidate.

For further information or to apply, contact Asia Szkludlarek, Gateway Business Manager 3-04 Students' Union Building T: 780.492.6669 F: 780.492.6665 biz@gateway.ualberta.ca

THE GATEWAY



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Mar 6
STAR PARTY
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PATTISON

VUE WEEKLY

Heavy-metal double feature: Bison B.C. and Baptized in Blood brutalize E-Town

Resident metalhead Gabby Riches chats with two of Shadows Fall's opening acts

musicpreview

Baptized in Blood & Bison BC

With *Shadows Fall* and *Goatwhore*
Thursday February 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)
\$20 at Ticketmaster or at the door

GABBY RICHES
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Baptized In Blood

Jägermeister is the cause of, and solution to, many a heavy metal problem — a statement which resonates with the guys from Baptized In Blood. While waiting to cross the border to launch their Canadian tour, guitarist and vocalist Josh Torrance was feeling the effects of a long night of loud music, thrashing, and hedonistically sucking from the hunter's green teat. Embarking on their third Canadian tour, Torrance admits that not even the Jäger can resolve the tribulations of touring.

"It is a little harder than people make it out to be. You're partying all the time, obviously, but then when you don't shower for a week, that is when things get utterly disgusting and pungent," he laughs. Starting out as a joke metal side-project in late 2004, Baptized In Blood became a serious endeavour after the overwhelming response they received from returning audiences in Ontario and throughout eastern Canada.

"We were all playing in different bands at the time, and then when we played our first show, so many people said they loved us. It was awesome," Torrance admits.

He's quick to add that their name, which is derived from a Death EP, does not connote any fantasy of actually



wanting to be covered in blood.

"If anything, I would love to be baptized in Jägermeister," laughs Torrance, as the rest of the band eavesdrops on the interview.

Categorizing a metal band's sound can be a very difficult task, but Torrance rises to the subgenre challenge by defining Baptized In Blood as "really thrashy, punk-rock meets heavy-metal, crazy guitar riffs, and a lot of energy."

These guys are not only booze connoisseurs, but are culinary aficionados as well. They displayed their metal cooking talents when bandmates Johl and Josh were featured on the popular Bite TV show, *The Hardcore Kitchen*.

"Johl made some ribs and beans. I got to make a drink with the bartender, which turned out to be really disgusting. We were making a root beer and Jäger float," Torrance chuckles.

However, Torrance does admit that he makes a mean spaghetti dish in which he

puts everything and anything into the pasta sauce — except Jäg, that is. Even on tour, food is an important aspect.

"We love peanut butter and tuna fish sandwiches. Nothing can beat a nice tuna fish sandwich," Torrance claims.

He also confesses that the band frequently gets caught with their pants down in public, which is why their MySpace webpage alludes to their fondness for dropping their drawers. In addition, Baptized In Blood make a point of living up to their song titles, especially "Kickin' Ass and Takin' The Blame," which is featured on their newly released album *Gutterbound*.

"We always kick ass and take the blame, but we also take names," Torrance states. Just before the band was going to learn their border-crossing fate, he asserts that Edmonton metal fans should expect one hell of a party, and he encourages everybody to "get in the pit and give it everything they got."

Bison B.C.

Even taking your dog for a walk has become an arduous activity since the Olympics have invaded Vancouver. As James Gnarwell, guitarist and vocalist of Vancouver's Bison B.C., attempts to conduct an interview while avoiding the off-leash authorities, his irritation regarding the Olympics was palpable.

"Welcome to Vancouver — it's like a new world order here. You can't do anything here anymore. This official actually sat there and waited for me to put a leash on — my God — she hasn't given me a ticket yet," snickers Gnarwell. Clearly, he's not disappointed that the Vancouver Olympic Committee didn't invite Bison B.C. to perform at the opening ceremonies.

As Gnarwell explains, bison provide an immense imagery for projecting heavy metal values and its ethos, hence why the band borrows from the beast for their namesake.

"The bison is huge, brutal, heavy, and hairy," Gnarwell says, adding that he's never petted, rode, or even fed a bison, but he knows of some good stories about people who have.

"Apparently, my friends were out camping, and out of the woods this bison came up to them. They were terrified because those things are really intimidating and huge."

While referring to themselves as Bison for several years, the band was forced to change their name to Bison B.C. in order to avoid confusion with other bands of the same name — a change Gnarwell isn't a fan of.

"I don't really care for the new name very much. The B.C. for us is silence," Gnarwell says.

For a while, the band had considered selling bison meat at metal shows, but the idea was shut down when they didn't have enough money to install a meat locker in the touring van.

Known for keeping death and destruction alive in heavy metal since 2006, Bison B.C.'s highly anticipated third full-length album *Dark Ages* contains extreme brutality, but of a more existential nature, according to Gnarwell.

"Thrash/crossover has always been heavy with metaphor, but I wanted the album to come from a more personal place. I really love poetry; I don't like things being too literal and spelled out. I wanted to write about my observations of reality," he says. However, Gnarwell points out their very simplistic formula when it comes to writing great music: "dumber is gooder."

Although Vancouver is known for its vibrant metal scene, it can be difficult being a metal band in the face of government resistance to funding their particular style of music.

"They are not supportive, and they really don't care about the climate of art and culture in this city unless it's accompanied by a lot of money," Gnarwell argues, adding that Bison B.C. are passionate about keeping the Vancouver metal scene sustainable by remaining active in the metal community.

"Whenever we play a local show, we make it accessible for people. The ticket prices are always cheap, and we jam the venue full of local metal bands."

So what should fans expect from Bison B.C. on February 25? Gnarwell asserts that fans should expect their heads to be crushed with loud music while having a good time. He's excited to show Shadows Fall the Canadian ropes; this is their first time in Canada, by telling them what to order at Tim Hortons.

"We got to get the word out that Canada produces awesome music," he says.





albumreview

Adam Palmer & the Specialest

Lights
Eleazar Records

WAYNE SIMON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Lights merges the whispery voice of Adam Palmer with tracks by the Specialest. The latter is also credited as having produced, arranged, recorded, and mixed this album. Oooh. Sounds good, doesn't it?

For the record, when musicianship fails, pretentiousness is not a suitable substitute.

Lights, you see, is a failed experiment in experimentation. The impression you get is a GarageBand virgin excitedly chucking in every

possible beep, whirr, and ring. Example: on the very first track, "Unstable," a vibrating fart bellows in the background for five minutes. And when the song stops, the ode to bowel movement lingers on for an additional 30 seconds, pulsating joyously in the air.

What do you do with this mess? Not straight-up partying — Palmer's voice is too whiny and intrusive for dry humping. It's also too annoying to listen to in a half-daze while

engaging in non-Gateway-approved activities.

While Adam Palmer's real voice probably sounds pleasant, it isn't here. It's not as spidery and hurt as Elliott Smith, or as emotively understated as Samuel Beam. It's also more processed than fish and chips in a can.

Want good electronic music that won't hurt your too-cool-for-mainstream indie cred? Pass this one up. Dull and bizarre, *Lights* lashes out in a wild attempt to emulate *Kid A* and *Merriweather Post Pavilion*. The end result is as sloppy as chicken stew on moldy bread. Lesson of the day: don't be experimental for the sake of sounding that way unless you want your album to sound like the musical incarnation of Carlos Mencia.

P.S. I love this album and I'm keeping everyone away from it to make me more indie.

MAINTENANT by Gigi

Gigi
Maintenant
Tomlab

albumreview

GRANT CRAWFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For those who aren't acquainted with our other national language, "Maintenant" means "now" — as in, *right now*. This is a pretty ironic title given that the recording of this album dates back to 2005, and was largely completed before 2008. Sure, recording dates don't matter, but what makes *Maintenant* so ironic is that this album is completely dedicated to recreating the

sound of the '60 hit parade. And to this end, it succeeds.

It's easy to imagine producer/engineer Colin Stewart as Phil Spector, and songwriter Nick Krgovich as Lieber and Stoller, and if it weren't for some familiar voices across the album, *Maintenant* could easily be mistaken for a collection of greatest hits lost from a past decade. This album is anything but "now,"

but the songs are, almost without exception, well-constructed and fun to listen to.

The problem is that this album channels '60s pop so well, it sounds far more like an exercise in recreation than in originality. They don't make that style of pop anymore because they made it in the '60s, and it sounded pretty good then, but then people moved on. Those who kept their records from those days still listen to them.

Either way, unless you want to hear some familiar names like Owen Pallett, Zac Pennington, and Katie Eastburn lending their voices to music that so unabashedly recreates a bygone era, you'll probably stick to the real thing, or far more likely, you can keep living in the now.



albumreview

Timbaland
Shock Value II
Blackground Records/Interscope Records

VONN GONDZIOLA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

One of the most prolific producers in music today is back in full swing, and he's brought his friends with him. *Shock Value II* is the perfect album for a night out at the clubs. It's got dope beats, synthesized voices, and hooks/accompaniments by some of today's hottest artists, including frequent collaborators Justin Timberlake and Nelly Furtado, as well as more surprising "talents" like Chad Kroeger

and Miley Cyrus. It almost seems like Timbaland's sole purpose here was to bring all of his friends in the industry out to show how far his reach and how high his swagger extend.

The production value of *Shock Value II* is excellent to a fault, containing good beats without any real feel to them. Timbo's layered too much for the listener to fully grasp. The synthesized voices go with the

beats, but they take away from the talents of the actual artists. With so much going on, nothing sticks out. The album can be played start to finish without anything really being memorable.

Lyrically overall, this album is lacking substance. There are no new avenues explored, with most of the rhymes being tired and played out. However, the album has a few redeeming songs that bring you back right at the end. Timbaland strikes gold when he eases up on the production with the ambient beats of "Undertow" and lyrical power of "Timothy Where You Been."

Shock Value II can be very much enjoyed if the atmosphere is right — say, in a club — but, something is lost when it's listened to on a home entertainment system.



albumreview

Zeus
Say Us
Arts & Crafts

CARSON FONG
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Originally named *Paso Mino* (Broken Social Scene's Jason Collett's backing band), *Zeus* first stepped into the front stage position in June 2009 with their EP, *Sounds like Zeus*. The latest release from the Toronto-based four-piece is their debut full-length album, *Say Us*. Strong songwriting, catchy melodies, and consistent energy

highlight what is a very confident record. *Zeus* exudes a unique punch that sets the music at an excellent pace. Their live show is explosive, and it's good to see that they've managed to transfer this vigour into their recordings.

The accessibility of *Say Us* is key in its success. The construction of the music isn't overly complex, and

there's a sense of familiarity to the sonics. Steering clear of the lingering Auto-Tune trend and avoiding programmed drums, the album is refreshingly organic and honest. While its dynamics are appreciated, *Say Us* is at its worst when the vocals go neck-deep in distortion on "You Gotta Tell'er." Three of the band members rotate as lead singer, but they're all strong enough to negate the need for voice filters.

Listening to *Say Us* serves as a reminder to what good music should be about. There's no radical artistic statement, no attempt to appeal to hipsters, no bold decisions made for the sake of being bold. It's simply a collection of musical ideas that happen to sound like rock 'n roll.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2010/2011 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 and pays \$2026.86/month*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2010/2011 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.**

Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Ashleigh Brown, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)** by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 4 March 2010. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.



* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase

** Complete job description (subject to change) is available at www.thegatewayonline.ca/gateways

THE GATEWAY

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FEB
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SPORTS

sports@gatewayualberta.ca • tuesday, february 23, 2010

VARSITY STARS

Varsity Stars is a weekly look at the very best performances by U of A athletes over the past weekend. Selections are based on the recommendations of our dedicated Gateway Sports Staff.



TARIN PODLOSKI

A four-point weekend made her CIS women's hockey's all-time leading scorer with 213 points.



KAYLA VOYTECHEK

Her bronze medal performance in the 100m backstroke was the U of A's lone medal at nationals.



ALI BERNARD

Bernard earned the U of A's lone gold medal at Canada West finals this past weekend in Calgary.

Photographs supplied by Andy Devlin/LA Media

SWIMMING NATIONALS RESULTS

Men's team standings:

Team	Points
1. Calgary	636.5
2. Toronto	551
3. UBC	337
4. Lava	361.5
5. Da nouse	240
6. Western	223
7. Alberta	206

Women's team standings:

Team	Points
1. Calgary	679
2. UBC	539
3. Montreal	385.5
4. Western	326.5
5. Toronto	317.5
6. Alberta	228

Nine U of A wrestlers earn podium finishes at Canada West wrestling championships

ROBERT FRIGON
Sports Writer

After a weekend of grappling with some of the conference's top wrestlers, both U of A squads placed fourth in the Canada West Finals this past weekend in Calgary. Nine wrestlers — three Pandas and six Bears — punched their tickets to nationals in just over a week's time in the Stampede City.

Over the weekend, the U of A wrestlers racked up one gold, one silver, and seven bronze medals. Ali Bernard's gold medal in the 72 kg division highlighted the weekend for the Green and Gold, as she picked up her fifth consecutive conference finish at the top of the podium.

"We're a very, very young team. Expectations are at a young level — we aren't world beaters yet."

OWEN DAWKINS
HEAD COACH, U OF A WRESTLING

Alberta hit the mats this weekend without Addison Bree, who wrestled on a severely sprained ankle and had to withdraw from competition. With the combination of Bree's loss and tough competition, it was especially difficult for a team with 19 freshmen on the roster to make a real push for the top.

"We're a very, very young team. Expectations are at a young level — we aren't world beaters yet," head coach Owen Dawkins explained. "The team is performing at a level that they should be. We qualified three girls to CIS Championships — two more than we did last year."

The weekend saw several wrestlers perform at their highest levels, including Hayley Thomas on the women's side, who picked up a bronze in the 48 kg division.

"On the girls side, the girl that stepped it up the most was Hayley Thomas. She is a first-year athlete and she beat two past national medallists both to qualify, so she stepped it up the most," Dawkins said.



FILE PHOTO: CLAUDINE CHAMPION

COWTOWN TAKEDOWN Jason Waas captured a silver medal in the 52 kg division this past weekend in Calgary at the Canada West finals to secure his spot at nationals March 5–6 in the Stampede City.

The Pandas improved from past performances, highlighted by Bernard, who is no stranger to outstanding performances, and will head into nationals as the heavy favourite to strike gold yet again.

"Ali Bernard is definitely heavily favoured to win and having a chance to accomplish something that no other woman has ever done, which is to be five-time CIS national champion," Dawkins said.

Overall, the Pandas accumulated 19 points, as they finished just four points out of third. With three women in the medals — Bernard, Thomas, and Megan Young, who finished third in the 82 kg class — the rest of the team was at the heels of the podium, with most finishing fourth in their class to help the Pandas to a strong top-five finish.

The men's performances were strong, too, winning a multitude of medals and having three

more members of their squad all finishing fourth. Jason Waas lead the way for the Bears with a silver medal performance in the 54 kg division, and will join bronze medallists Kyle Stephens (57 kg), Brett Wells (61 kg), Connor Hoy (65 kg), Curtis Horsburgh (68 kg), and Coleman Brinker (72 kg) at nationals on the Bears side.

The team will now shift their attention to preparing for nationals where they'll be looking to improve on last year's 10th-place finish for the Bears, and 12th-place finish for the Pandas.

"Jason has the chance to win on the men's side and the rest of our men have the potential to be top-five placers. The women have Ali [Bernard] and fighters that made it to CIS," Dawkins stated.

Dawkins and his team of nine Green and Gold grapplers head to nationals March 5–6 in Calgary, where the Bears and Pandas will be looking to cap off the season with a bang.

Voytechek claims bronze medal at CIS swim nationals

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Heading to the Toronto with high hopes, the U of A's swimmers returned home from this weekend's national championships with eerily similar results from last year's season finale, as the Golden Bears finished the three-day event in seventh place and the Pandas in sixth — the exact placements that both sides secured at last year's nationals.

Coming into the championships, the Bears and Pandas were looking to lean heavily on their relay squads for pivotal points in the team event, especially on the men's side where Brian Yakiwchuk, Joshua Au, Scott Stewart, and Robert MacKinnon had combined for a gold medal performance in the 4x200m freestyle relay at the conference championships. That relay squad finished outside the medals as they finished fifth, watching fellow Canada West swimmers from Calgary and UBC crack the podium with second- and third-place finishes respectively.

Alberta's lone medal of the championships came on day two of the competition as sophomore swimmer Kayla Voytechek secured a bronze medal in the 100m backstroke with a time of 1:08.43.

The championships were highlighted by Calgary's first-place team finishes in both the men's and women's team standings, as the Dinos



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

BRONZE GLIDE Kayla Voytechek capped off the swimming season this past weekend at the University of Toronto with a bronze medal performance in the women's 100m breaststroke at CIS nationals.

became the first school in CIS history to sweep the team titles at the national finals. The Dinos also dominated the individual awards, picking up four honours, including three of a possible four on the women's side.

Alberta was represented with an individual honour at the Canada West level, when head coach Bill Humby was named the conference's Coach of the Year for the first time in his four years at the helm of the program.

Olympics continue to show growing parity in men's international hockey

Funding, competitive pro leagues helping national programs make strides



NICK FROST

Sports Commentary

If the round-robin portion of men's hockey at this year's Olympic Games has been any indication, the days of blowout hockey in international tournaments are coming to an end.

With the exception of the third periods in Canada's 8-0 victory over Norway and Russia's 8-2 win over Latvia, many of the lower-tier nations expected to simply roll over are refusing to do so against those considered to be in hockey's elite bracket. Instead, they're putting up unprecedented and more importantly, complete efforts, showing that they're capable of keeping up with the best in the world for significant stretches of a game.

But while the outcomes don't necessarily reflect said efforts just yet, they're indicative of an increasing trend towards a greater degree of parity within this generation of players, meaning that the future is ripe for some of the most competitive hockey that fans of international game have ever seen.

Of course, as is the case with all instances of evolution, some teams are ahead of the curve and presently better equipped to contend with hockey's current top-six (Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Russia, Sweden, and the United States) sooner rather than later.

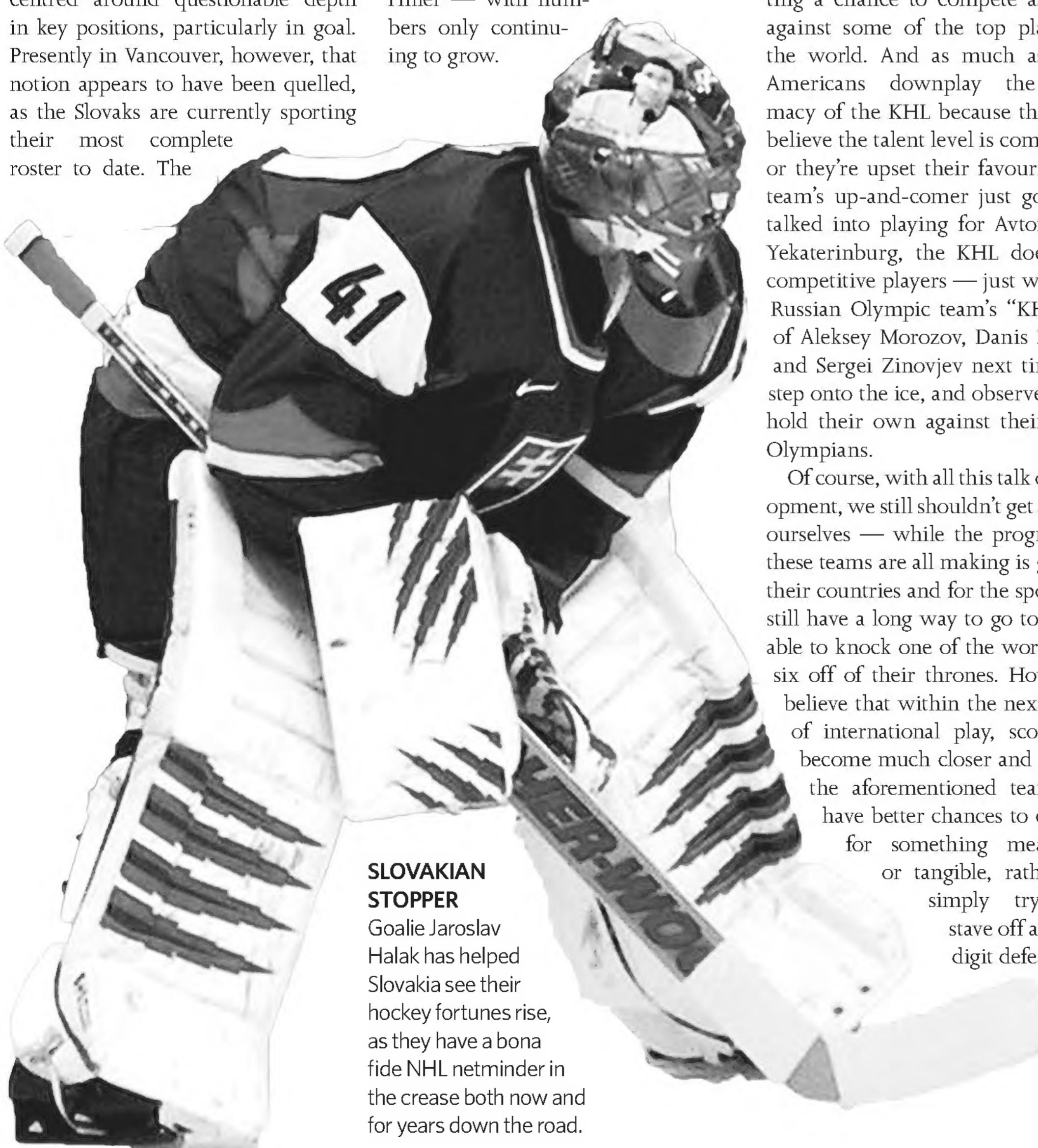
Slovakia has always featured a roster comprised mostly of NHL-level talent, but are usually deemed an underdog against the aforementioned six. The knock over the years has usually centred around questionable depth in key positions, particularly in goal. Presently in Vancouver, however, that notion appears to have been quelled, as the Slovaks are currently sporting their most complete roster to date. The

emergence of 24-year-old goaltender Jaroslav Halak — who appears to finally be providing Slovakia with a steadfast in the crease — has provided the team with a strong backbone to stay competitive in tough games for years to come.

However, Slovakia's progress isn't nearly as revelatory as some of the other countries predicted to finish in the bottom cluster of the Olympic standings — many of whom also comprise spots 7-12 in the IIHF's 2009 rankings. While some of these nations have worked fervently for decades with little to no success to show for their effort, it's only in recent years that circumstances have allowed their respective hockey programs to emerge with genuine hope.

Many of the lower-tier nations expected to simply roll over are refusing to do so against those considered to be in hockey's elite bracket.

A country like Switzerland, for example, has done a commendable job of creating a strong hockey presence in areas where the sport might otherwise lose focus and popularity to other sports such as football or alpine skiing. Funding over the years towards building new facilities (including Bern's PostFinance Arena, the largest in Europe) and promoting all levels of hockey has led to a growing number of exports becoming established NHLers in recent years — notably, defenceman Mark Streit and goaltender Jonas Hiller — with numbers only continuing to grow.



SLOVAKIAN STOPPER

Goalie Jaroslav Halak has helped Slovakia see their hockey fortunes rise, as they have a bona fide NHL netminder in the crease both now and for years down the road.

And it's already paying off. Switzerland appears to be next in line to earn their legitimacy stripes, due largely in part to the increasing strength of their national program. Anyone who watched the Swiss' current iteration take Canada to the brink five nights ago saw a team that out-worked one of hockey's superpowers in terms of speed, creating turnovers, and winning battles to pucks for the better part of 60 minutes. Consider then, if you will, that they only appear poised to be getting stronger.

Defencemen Roman Josi and Luca Shisa, both high NHL draft picks in the past two seasons, have opportunities to crack NHL rosters within the next few years. Meanwhile, forward Nino Niederreiter, who impressed many at the 2010 World Juniors and is likely to be selected in the top 10 of this year's NHL Draft, appears poised to become the face of Swiss hockey.

Another factor responsible for the increasing skill level among a couple of the lower-ranked international teams is due to professional leagues outside of North America — specifically, the Kontinental Hockey League. Russia's answer to the NHL has provided a suitable training ground for two region-specific teams, Dynamo Minsk (Belarus) and Dinamo Riga (Latvia), to compete against top-end talent from Russia and parts of Europe. If that doesn't seem particularly telling, check out these numbers: members of the two club squads, respectively, make up over half of the Belorussian (13 of 23) and Latvian (15 of 23) men's ice hockey teams at the Olympics.

In essence, a large number of the players who make up both teams are not only getting to develop chemistry as a precursor for international tournaments, but they're also getting a chance to compete as a unit against some of the top players in the world. And as much as North Americans downplay the legitimacy of the KHL because they don't believe the talent level is comparable, or they're upset their favourite NHL team's up-and-comer just got sweet talked into playing for Avtomobilist Yekaterinburg, the KHL does boast competitive players — just watch the Russian Olympic team's "KHL line" of Aleksey Morozov, Danis Zaripov, and Sergei Zinovjev next time they step onto the ice, and observe as they hold their own against their fellow Olympians.

Of course, with all this talk of development, we still shouldn't get ahead of ourselves — while the progress that these teams are all making is great for their countries and for the sport, they still have a long way to go to ever be able to knock one of the world's top-six off of their thrones. However, I believe that within the next decade of international play, scores will become much closer and some of the aforementioned teams will have better chances to compete for something meaningful or tangible, rather than simply trying to stave off a double-digit defeat.

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Recreation for all is an integral part of a positive U of A experience. Therefore, those organizations applying for funding from CREF must show that their request will have a positive impact on student life at the University of Alberta. The request must facilitate healthy, active lifestyles for University of Alberta students.

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sportsshort

Compiled by Evan Daum

Pandas Volleyball

The Volleyball Pandas headed to Langley, B.C. this past weekend to take on the Trinity Western Spartans in Canada West women's volleyball first-round playoff action. Having struggled heading into the best-of-three playoff series, losing five consecutive regular season contests, the number-seven ranked Pandas couldn't right the ship in the postseason, as they were swept in two games by the number-four ranked Spartans.

Friday night saw the Pandas drop a 3-1 decision, and in game two of the series, the Pandas would once again come up on the wrong end of things, losing in straight sets to allow TWU to complete the sweep.

The Pandas season, however, isn't over yet as they'll host the national championship March 5-7 at the Main Gym, welcoming the nation's best to their home court.

Bears Volleyball

The Volley-Bears played a pair of games over the break, as they headed to sunny Hawaii for a pair of non-conference games against the University of Hawaii Warriors in Honolulu. Head coach Terry Danyluk's squad travelled to the Aloha State from February 12-13, splitting a pair of games both in straight sets.

Alberta got off on the right foot in the opener on Feb. 12, picking up a straight-sets win over the Warriors, but the Bears then came up on the wrong end of the same score in the rematch, losing 3-0 to Hawaii.

The Bears, who finished first overall during regular season play, will host Canada West's best March 6-7 at the Pavilion for the conference's final four,

where three nationals berths will be up for grabs. Alberta will be looking to join Thompson Rivers, who has already qualified for nationals as the host.

Bears Hockey

The Ice Bears played a pair of regular season series during the break, including their final regular season home weekend at Clare Drake Arena on February 12-13, where the Green and Gold split with the last place UBC Thunderbirds. Alberta came out flat in the opener of the series in a 4-1 loss, before bouncing back with a 7-1 win to split the series.

This past weekend, the squad travelled to Regina to wrap up the regular season, and did so with a pair of hard fought 5-4 wins over the Cougars, who will be on the outside looking in come playoff time in two weeks time.

The Bears have a bye this weekend in the final weekend of Canada West regular season play. With first place already secured, Alberta will now wait and see who they'll face in the first round of the playoffs from March 5-7 at home.

Pandas Hockey

With one regular season series remaining on their schedule, the Pandas headed to Manitoba this past weekend to take on the second-place Manitoba Bisons, looking to make a statement to the team that knocked them off in last year's conference final.

Forward Tarin Podloski and company did just that in a two-game sweep of the Herd with a 3-1 win Friday night and 3-0 victory Saturday night. History was made over the weekend as Podloski became the CIS' all-time leading scorer in women's hockey as she had a four-point weekend to give her 213 regular season points — one more than former Panda and current assistant coach Danielle Bourgeois, who had 212 points in her career.

The new scoring queen and the



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

SCORING QUEEN The Pandas' Tarin Podloski is now CIS women's hockey's all-time leading scorer with 213 career points after a four point weekend in Winnipeg.

rest of the Pandas host the fourth-place Regina Cougars this weekend in Canada West semi-final action at the Drake Friday and Saturday (and Sunday, if necessary) in the best-of-three series.

Bears Basketball

After waiting to see how things would play out in the Canada West's final regular season weekend on February 12-13, the Basket-Bears will be playoff bound after all. Alberta just made it into the postseason with a 10-10 record, and will head to UBC this coming weekend to take on the conference's best team in a best-of-three series.

Pandas Basketball

The Pandas had no game action over the break, as they prepare to host the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend

for a first-round Canada West playoff match at the Main Gym. Alberta will see their first action in nearly three weeks this weekend, with their last game coming February 6 against Manitoba in a 74-50 win over the Bisons in Winnipeg.

Track and Field

The U of A track and field squad travelled to Regina February 13-14 for the Queen City Meet — their final meet before this upcoming weekend's Canada West finals, which they'll host at the Pavilion.

The Queen City Meet results were highlighted by a tremendous effort by Amanda Schneck who broke Kristi Kublik's old U of A record of 3,314 in the pentathlon with a score of 3,337. That effort earned Schneck first-place honours at the meet.

THE GYM BAG

Apparently Canadian hockey came crashing down Sunday night when Team Canada dropped a 5-3 decision to the U.S. on home ice at the Olympics.

With headlines like "A Black Sunday for Team Canada", which ran online for the *Globe and Mail*, Canadian hockey fans from coast-to-coast were jumping ship, enraged by their nation's loss to the Red, White and Blue. Now while Canada's performance against the States was far from inspiring, and without a doubt was a major letdown, it's time for me to be the voice of reason — it's not the end of the tournament, let alone the end of the world.

Essentially the loss means an extra game for Canada, as they'll take on Germany in the qualification round and then a tougher opponent in the quarterfinal round if they can beat the Germans tonight. Sure the road will be harder, and a Canada-Russia final is now impossible, but who really cares?

If Canada goes on to make it to the medal round, and the finals, the fact that they lost a game in which they outplayed the Americans for long stretches will be little more than an afterthought. Take a deep breath, hockey fans, and save your frustrated fervour for when the dream is really over.

EVAN DAUM

The Gym Bag is a highly irregular feature blatantly stolen from the Opinion section where a sports-related person or group who needs to be put in a smelly gym bag and beaten with a hockey stick is ridiculed in print. No beatings are actually administered.



Canada didn't have athleticism and big body presence against the Americans two nights ago, but one fine young man who did was Pierre McGuire. The product of the beautiful city of Englewood, New Jersey has puck poise and tenacity when pronouncing cities like "Budejovice" and "Skellefteå". TSN's scouting staff did a tremendous job finding this kid, committing sheer larceny on Sportsnet and The Score. WHAMMO! If you're oozing with sports knowledge, and have the time and space to write for Gateway sports, come out to a sports meeting every Thursday at 4 p.m. on the third floor of SUB.

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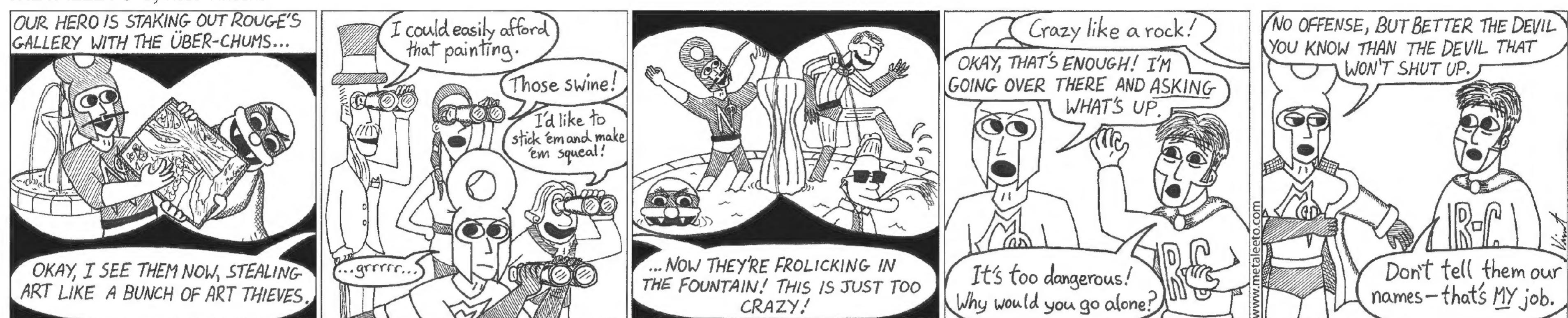
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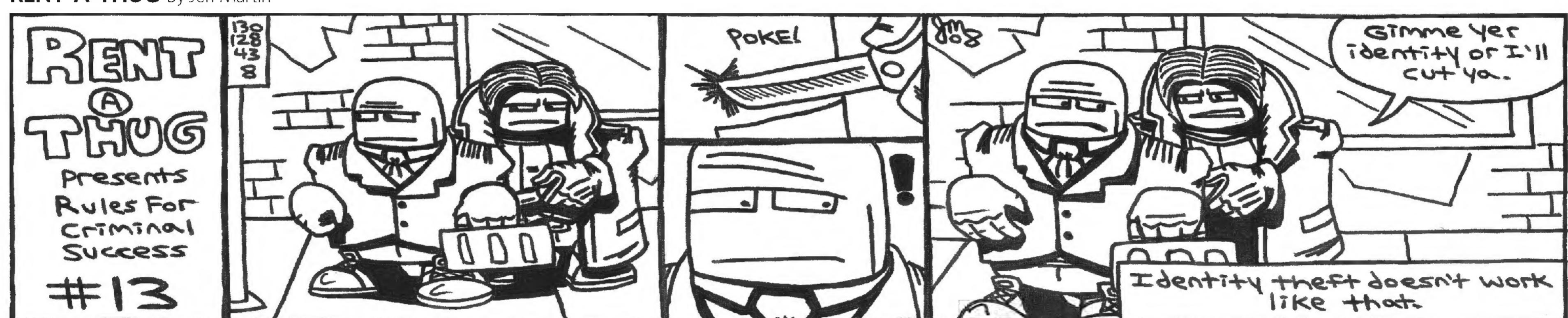
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METALEETO by Ross Vincent



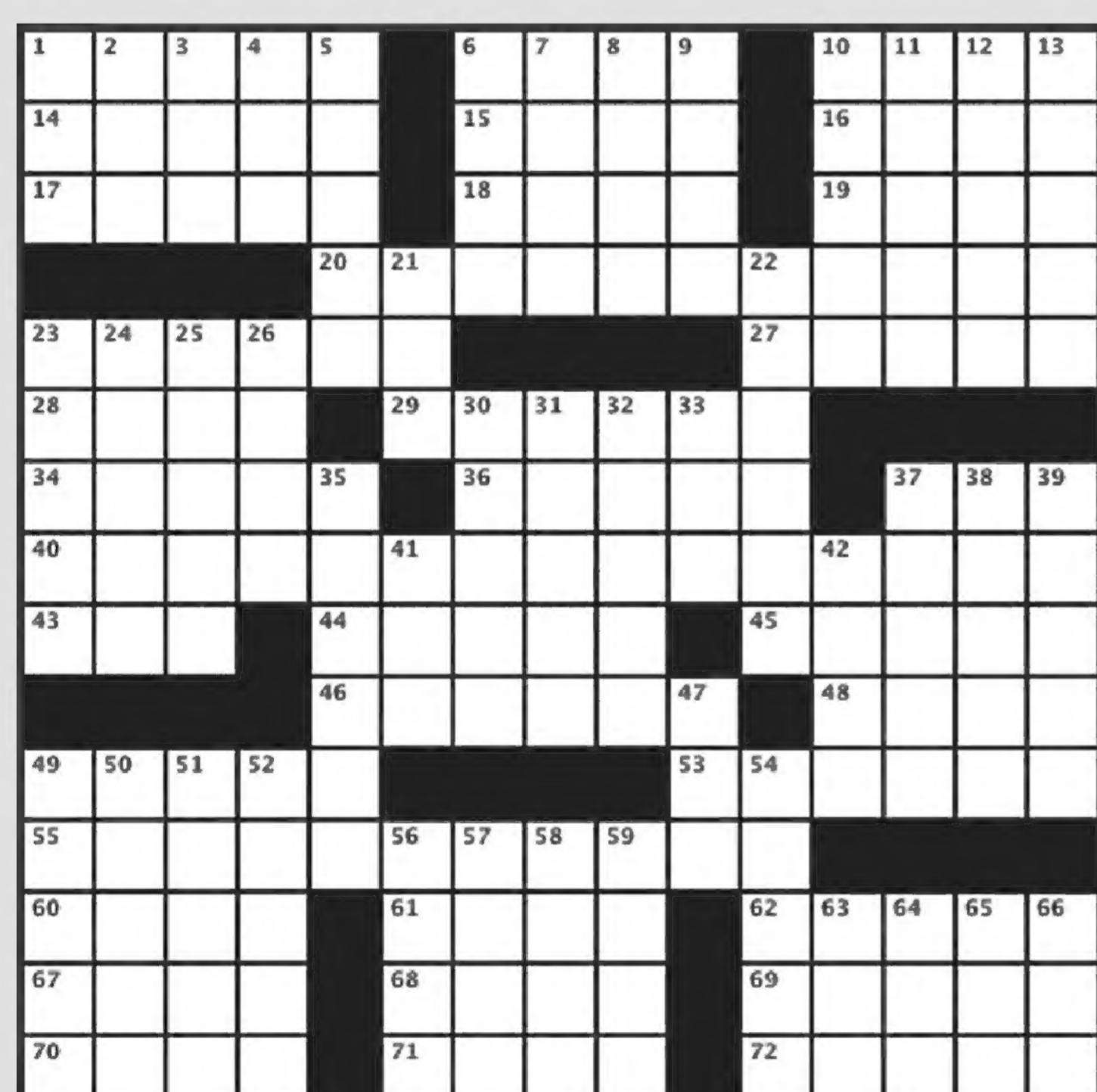
RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



UNISAUCE by Hylie Chan



crossword



The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at www.thegatewayonline.ca

Across

- 1. 71 per cent is under water
- 6. Slovenly person
- 10. Fruit-filled pie
- 14. Luck!
- 15. Farm structure
- 16. Hydrox rival
- 17. Sports card name
- 18. Revengers, for short
- 19. Highest point
- 20. Dejection
- 21. Spreads out
- 22. Muse of lyric poetry
- 23. Asian sea
- 24. Admonition
- 25. Bottom line
- 26. Chili con
- 27. Horned viper
- 28. Like after-school activities
- 29. Colouring material
- 30. Rate
- 31. Valuable collection
- 32. Boring
- 33. Departs
- 34. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72.

49. _____ by any other name...

- 53. Recompense
- 55. Remove carbon dioxide from _____
- 60. Italian wine city
- 61. Dash
- 62. Baffled
- 67. Turned right
- 68. Inter
- 69. Film composer Stevens
- 70. Bluesy James
- 71. Move suddenly
- 72. "Peter and the Wolf" bird
- 22. Discover
- 23. Satisfied
- 24. Agent
- 25. Starbucks order
- 26. Banned apple spray
- 30. Sharp
- 31. Miscellany
- 32. Diamond flaw?
- 33. Black bird
- 35. Pantry
- 37. Crazy as _____.
- 38. Rescued
- 39. Squeeze
- 41. Automobile
- 42. Exhort
- 47. Sun-sen
- 49. Maxim
- 50. Adjust to zero
- 51. Eight singers
- 52. You _____ mouthful!
- 54. Repasts
- 56. Glass ornament
- 57. Earthen pot
- 58. Neat rival
- 59. Med school subj.
- 63. Beverage commonly drunk in England
- 64. Bro's counterpart
- 65. Biblical verb ending
- 66. Eureka!

Down

- 1. Mischievous person
- 2. "You've got mail" co.
- 3. Hwy.
- 4. Half a fly
- 5. Sturdy
- 6. Grounded fleet
- 7. Lame movement
- 8. Bread spread
- 9. Beethoven's birthplace
- 10. Hard drinker
- 11. Concert venue
- 12. Hit back, perhaps
- 13. Capital of Japan
- 21. Computer key

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AND FINALLY

SU election season is upon us, and campus is awash with the various propaganda of each candidate and campaign. While I can't offer you advice on who or what to vote for or against — although I hear None of the Above is a good

contender this year in pretty much every race — I will take this opportunity to urge you to get informed. Ask as many questions as you can of each of the candidates. Give them an email, or stop by their tables; make them work to explain why they should get your vote. In these popularity contests we call democracy, there's often a significant amount of people with more rhetoric than sense. It's up to you to ask the right questions and expose them for the vapid gladhanders they are. On a lighter note, I had a delicious burger for lunch. Oh boy!



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